THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU • MONDAY • JUNE 29, 2020 • ₹7.00 • PAGES 32 • LATE CITY EDITION

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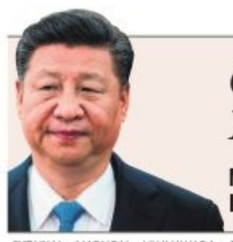


COVID-19 SLAMS BRAKES ON XI JINPING'S PET INITIATIVE

Most projects under the multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are either on hold or getting minimal works

AT LEAST 60% PROJECTS BADLY AFFECTED

About 20% of the projects have been 'seriously' affected, a senior Chinese foreign ministry official said. Another 40% are 'adversely' affected, while a further 30-40% are 'somewhat' affected. The BRI, that aims to link parts of Asia with Europe and Africa through a network of land and sea-based trade routes, is China's attempt to spread its influence abroad| **P9**

CHINA-PAK CORRIDOR TOO HIT BY DELAYS

- The projects disrupted include the $60 billion China-Pakistan Economic Corridor being laid through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir
- The BRI, mostly funded by borrowed Chinese money, has trapped many countries in debt. Some of the projects were already on hold prior to Covid outbreak due to the mounting debt burden

2,951

PROJECTS COSTING $3.87 TRILLION ARE PLANNED UNDER BRI

CHENNAI • MADURAI • VIJAYAWADA • BENGALURU • KOCHI • HYDERABAD • VISAKHAPATNAM • COIMBATORE • KOZHIKODE • THIRUVANANTHAPURAM • BELAGAVI • BHUBANESWAR • SHIVAMOGGA • MANGALURU • TIRUPATI • TIRUCHY • TIRUNELVELI • SAMBALPUR • HUBBALLI • DHARMAPURI • KOTTAYAM • KANNUR • VILLUPURAM • KOLLAM • WARANGAL • TADEPALLIGUDEM • NAGAPATTINAM • THRISSUR • KALABURAGI

CORONAVIRUS-POSITIVE CASES CROSSED 10 MILLION GLOBALLY ON SUNDAY • 2,03,051 ACTIVE CASES REPORTED IN INDIA | P9

Now, China psy-ops with 20 martial arts trainers

Claims to have posted them in Lhasa; it's an indirect admission of its troops' inferior skills in hand-to-hand combat, feel experts

MAYANK SINGH @New Delhi

AMID continuing Sino-Indian tensions along the Line of Actual Control in eastern Ladakh, China on Saturday announced it has posted 20 martial arts trainers in Tibet's capital Lhasa. Experts see it as part of China's mind games as also an acknowledgement of the deficiency of its troops in hand-to-hand combat at high altitudes.

"Their losses in the physical fights in Galwan and before that at Finger 4 have compelled them to identify and send martial arts trainers," an Army officer said, adding that the announcement was part of China's psychological ops. "The answer lies in the move getting announced after so many days of the deadly clash of June 15," the officer said.

He was referring to the brutal clashes at Patrolling Point 14 on June 15 in which both sides suffered casualties.

While India made public the loss of its 20 soldiers, including the local commanding officer, China hasn't revealed its fatalities yet. Hand-to-hand combat also took place on the intervening night of May 5 and 6, after which the Chinese troops began their stand-off. The two armies also clashed on May 14 and May 31, sources revealed.

The 1996 agreement between the two countries prevents the use of guns within 2 km of the LAC.

Infantry units in the Indian Army have soldiers in large numbers trained in the art of unarmed combat (UAC). Each infantry unit has a team for special tasks, called the Ghatak Platoon. It comprises the fittest soldiers in the unit who take a commando course, where they learn the intricacies of unarmed combat.

"It is compulsory for every officer of the infantry and a large number of soldiers to complete 43 days of gruelling training at Commando School in Belagavi, Karnataka," the officer said. "Training goes without a break with a week-long capsule of UAC, which is compulsory to clear before one is declared successful in training."

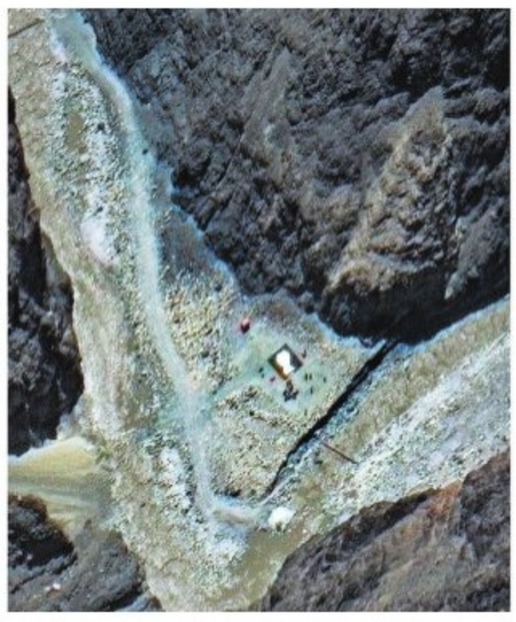
The Ghatak Platoon inducts a select few new soldiers and young officers every year. Those who are replaced also stay with the unit fulfilling other requirements. As such, every unit has a large number of soldiers trained in the basics of unarmed combat.

The Indian Army also has a large number of regiments with troops from mountain states, thus giving them an edge during operations in a mountainous area like Ladakh.

In fact, Ladakh has its own regiment, the Ladakh Scouts, which comprises youth drawn from the region. They are fully competent for battles at high altitude. It is the youngest among the Indian Army regiments.

THOSE WHO EYED OUR SOIL GOT A FITTING REPLY: PM

Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 'Mann Ki Baat' address on Sunday said India gave a befitting reply to China in eastern Ladakh, without naming the neighbour. "Those who cast an evil eye on Indian soil in Ladakh have got a befitting response. Our braves made the supreme sacrifice, but did not let adversaries prevail," Modi said. On the Covid-19 front, he urged citizens not to lose their hope. "We must face the challenges and use them to march ahead," he said | **P7**



Satellite images taken on May 22 (left) and June 23 (right) show the extent of construction at the Galwan Valley within a month, near the border between India and China, known as the Line of Actual Control | AP

CONTRIBUTION OF MAJOR CHINESE FIRMS TO INDIA'S COVID RELIEF POOL

While sentiments against Chinese-owned companies have been rising after the border clash at Galwan Valley in Ladakh, almost all major Chinese-owned brands operating in India have contributed in some way to the fight against Covid-19 in the country. A look:

Xiaomi
- ₹15 crore contribution/pledge in all for Covid-19 fight in India
- ₹10 crore towards PM and various state CMs' relief funds
- ₹1 crore raised in partnership with NGO Give India to make hygiene kits available for 20,000 families
- Balance pledged towards protective equipment for doctors

Huawei
- ₹7 crore contributed in total towards PM CARES Fund and six other state govts

TikTok
- ₹100 crore worth equipment donated, including 400,000 hazmat medical protective suits and 200,000 masks
- Acquired with support from the Union Ministry of Textiles and handed over to the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- ₹30 crore raised for PM CARES Fund from TikTok users through a quiz

MG Motor (Owned by SAIC Motors)
- ₹2 crore contributed to government hospitals and health institutions in Gurugram and Halol (Vadodara), where the carmaker's facilities are located
- Provided 100 MG HECTOR SUVs to facilitate transport of doctors, medical staff, police and local government officials for community service across the country

Oppo
- ₹1 crore towards PM CARES Fund and UP fund and distributing masks to UP govt

OnePlus
- ₹1 crore towards PM CARES Fund

Vivo
- Contributed 15,000 PPE suits and 50,000 litres of sanitiser to the Central government
- Donated over one lakh medical masks to healthcare workers in Maharashtra

Alibaba Group
- Donated medical and protective equipment to seven Asian countries, including India

Note: Compiled from public announcements made by companies

1,267 new Covid cases shock K'taka; B'luru adds 783

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

IN a massive spike, by far the biggest, a total of 1,267 new Covid-19 cases were added to Karnataka's tally on Sunday, taking the overall count from 11,923 to 13,190 overnight. Bengaluru alone added a record high of 783 cases, pushing up the state's numbers sharply. On Saturday, Bengaluru had accounted for 596 cases.

With the back-to-back surge, Bengaluru now has 3,314 Covid-19 positive cases of which 2,692 are active (currently under treatment). Kalaburagi comes second, but is behind Bengaluru by almost 2,000 cases, at 1,398 positive cases and only 371 active cases, followed by Udupi with 1,179 positive cases and 135 active cases.

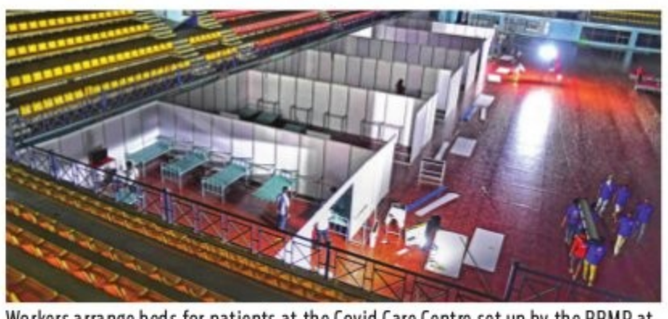
The death toll in the state now stands at 207 with 16 more deaths. Of these, four were in Bengaluru, three in Dakshina Kannada, two in Tumakuru and one each in Dharwad, Hassan, Mysuru, Bagalkot, Ballari, Kolar and Kalaburagi. Of the 16 who died, four did not have any co-morbidites and most of them suffered from fever, cough and breathlessness. The death toll in Bengaluru now stands at 88.

Commenting on the deaths, epidemiologist and member of state Covid-19 task force, Dr Giridhara R Babu, in a tweet on Sunday, said, "Bengaluru has the third highest case fatality rate (CFR) in the country, worsening the indicators for Karnataka. The state's CFR is 1.54 per cent and Bengaluru Urban and Rural districts, put together, is 4.85 per cent."

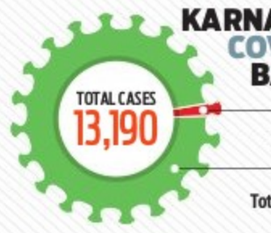
As of now, 243 patients of the 5,472 active cases are in ICU. At least 155 of the ICU patients are in Bengaluru.

With Bengaluru emerging as a hotspot, all attention is now on the city to stop or at least slow down the Covid-19 surge.

CONTINUED ON: P5



Workers arrange beds for patients at the Covid Care Centre set up by the BBMP at the Koramangala Indoor Stadium In Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAMBN



KARNATAKA COVID-19 BATTLE

207 Total Deaths

7,507 Total Recoveries so far

- Bengaluru Urban reports a massive 783 cases in a single day
- 16 patients succumb to disease during the day
- McGann Hospital in Shivamogga to add 150 beds in coming days
- Chitradurga district to conduct door-to-door survey to detect ILI and SARI cases

• FULL COVERAGE P6

Private hospitals, chemists detect 13.5L susceptible individuals in two months

RANJANI MADHAVAN @Bengaluru

IN the two months since the government mandated registered pharmacies and private medical establishments to report cases of people coming in with symptoms of Severe Acute Respiratory Infection (SARI), Influenza-Like Illness (ILI), fever, etc., a staggering 1.59 lakh ILI and 5,650 SARI cases were reported by medical establishments till June 25. Also, 11.40 lakh fever cases and 53,460 suspected SARI/ILI cases were reported by pharmacies till June 26.

Between April-end and early May, the State Government issued separate orders directing hospitals/clinics and pharmacies to record details of patients/customers, along with phone numbers, if they show up with the symptoms. This data is to be sent to the government for surveillance and follow-up measures.

So far, 11,623 of the 27,462 (42.32%) medical institutions and 19,050 of the 29,089 chemists/druggists (65.4%) registered under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments (KPME) Act have responded on the portal.

"Pharmacies and medical establishments which are not reporting SARI/ILI cases to the government are being issued notices and about 12 licences have been cancelled temporarily," said Health and Family Welfare Commissioner Pankaj Kumar Pandey. **P5**

WHAT THE NUMBERS SAY

Pharmacies reported

11,40,243 Fever cases

2,23,056 Cough cases

53,460 SARI/ILI cases

4,64,626 Allergy cases

1,73,289 Fever and allergy cases

73,137 Fever and cough cases

53,048 Allergy and cough cases

38,965 Fever, allergy, cough cases

Pvt medical establishments reported

1,59,928 ILI cases

5,650 SARI cases

2,951 suspected Covid-19 cases

Claim I-T exemption on conveyance allowance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ New Delhi

THE Central Board of Direct Taxes has notified amendments to Income Tax rules, which allow salaried employees to claim a set of exemptions if they apply for the lower personal income tax regime. This includes exemptions that may be claimed on conveyance allowances extended by employers.

The new regime, which is optional, will be applicable for income earned from financial year 2020-21. A new sub-section has been added to the rule 2BB to implement these exemptions. They include any allowance granted to meet the cost of travel on tour or on transfer; any allowance, granted on tour for the period of journey in connection with a transfer, to meet ordinary daily charges incurred by an employee on account of absence from his/her normal place of duty; and any allowance to meet the expenditure on conveyance in performance of duties, getting to an office, or in employment for profit, provided free conveyance is not provided by the employer.

The notification provides for exemption on transport allowance to physically challenged employees. The exemption limit is set at ₹3,200 per month. However, the Board clarified that while determining the value of perquisites, no exemption will be available in the case of free food and non-alcoholic beverages provided by the employer through paid vouchers.

CONTINUED ON: P10

WHEN THE HUMMINGBIRD FOUND MISING

THE ESSENTIAL CAMPUS DIGEST edex

32 PAGES, INCLUDING 16 OF edex (TABLOID) & 4 of City Express

STATE UNVEILS NEW NORMS FOR ONLINE EDUCATION

The Karnataka Government has unveiled a new set of temporary guidelines on conducting online classes for school students, which are applicable to every school in the state, from those following state syllabus to CBSE and ICSE. These new norms come after the Karnataka High Court asked the state government to come up with an interim solution till the expert committee on technology-enabled education submits its report. | **FULL REPORT: P2**

JAL SHAKTI

Karnataka Lake Man's watershed moment –PM's praise

ASHWINI M SRIPAD @Bengaluru

THIS shepherd from a remote village in Mandya district has been going about his job of digging ponds quietly on the barren hill near his village to help man and wildlife for four decades now.

Known fondly as 'Pond Man' and 'Lake Man', 84-year-old Kaamegowda became the talk of the town when he was praised for his 'Aatmanirbhar' efforts by none other than Prime Minister Narendra Modi in his 'Mann ki Baat' on Sunday. And coincidentally, a little before that, Union Jal Shakti Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhawat spoke to him over a video call, amazed by his efforts to harvest 'jal shakti'.

Two years back, *The New Indian Express* wrote about Kaamegowda, who hails from Daasanadoddi village of Malavalli taluk in Mandya district. When TNIE visited his haven then — a half-complete house — the hill presented itself in lush green attire, thanks to the 14 ponds, linked by a waterway that ensures when the upper ponds on the hill are filled, the surplus water flows into the ponds below.

And Kaamegowda received high praise from the highest office of the country for his selfless efforts. Modi, in his 'Mann ki Baat', mentioned Kaamegowda and said that at his age, Gowda was doing a wonderful job. "He might have not done bigger lakes, but constructed 16 ponds for which he has invested his energy and time," said the PM.

The man, who least expects awards or rewards, told TNIE that he was very happy about this. "Someone in Delhi recognised the work of a person from Daasanadoddi. It looks like Modi too is fond of ponds just like me," he said. **P3**

Kaamegowda stands near one of the ponds he built. The octogenarian has built 16 ponds on the barren Kundinibetta hill in Mandya district | PANDARINATH B

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

BENGALURU

ALMANAC TODAY
• Monday 29/06/2020 • Year: Sarvari • Ayana: Uttharayana • Ritu: Greeshma
• Masa: Ashada • Paksha: Shukla • Tithi: Navami 9.34 pm
• Nakshatra: Hasta 7.18 am • Moon in Tula Rashi • Rahukaala: 07:30 am to 09:00 am
• Gulikakala: 01:30 pm to 03:00 pm • Yamaganda: 10:30 am to 12:00 pm

WEATHER WATCH
MIN 22°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST
Thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy

Sunrise 5.56 am
Sunset 6.49 pm
Moonrise 1.17 pm
Moonset 12.47 am

A staffer sanitises the premises of a hotel in Bengaluru on Sunday | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

BBMP not sanitising Covid-hit homes: Citizens

Residents complain authorities also skip home quarantine sticker; no guidelines issued by BBMP on waste disposal

RANJANI MADHAVAN & IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

RESIDENTS of apartments and those living in localities with independent houses complain that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike is not sanitising the apartment floors or independent houses when a Covid-19 case is reported from there.

They also complain that home quarantine sticker for primary contacts is not put in some cases.

The wife, a positive patient, who lives in an apartment, told *TNIE* on condition of anonymity, that no BBMP officials came to sanitise her floor. "I took the help of my neighbours and the security guard who sanitised the corridor and the lift. There are also no guidelines given to us by BBMP on trash disposal, as we are on home quarantine. For several days, the garbage was piling up at home and we could not sleep because of the mosquitoes," she complained.

Even while a positive case was reported on Thursday near his home in Chamarajapet, Vijay Umashankar saw no sign of anyone coming to sanitise his neighbour's house.

"It has been four days since a senior citizen with Covid-19 was admitted to a hospital but his house has not been sanitised. I raised the issue with the local health officer and corporator but despite promises, no one turned up to help. There is talk of community spread and we are scared," Vijay said.

Arun Kumar, a resident of an apartment in Malleswaram, also faced a similar situation. "BBMP does not have the capacity to sanitise all places, which is why we residents did it ourselves for the particular floor from where the case was reported and the entire building, multiple times," Arun said.

Chitra, a resident of Seshadripuram, said that independent homes with Covid-19 cases are not being barricaded in several parts of ward 94.

> **We have had a positive case in our three-floor building, but so far nobody has come to sanitise the place. The residents were scared to come out and stayed indoors for 14 days**
> Mohammad Rafi, a resident of SK Garden

Randeep D, special commissioner, solid waste management and in-charge of public health, said, "The protocol is that once a person tests positive, immediately after shifting the patient, the place in front of the apartment and the common areas need to be sanitised. We cannot do it inside their house, but we need to do it from outside. If it isn't carried out, a complaint should be given to the zonal heads of junior health inspectors, who will then take care of it."

SSLC exam to continue despite spike

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @Bengaluru

Another SSLC student was confirmed Covid-positive, the third to do so, on Sunday. The student was from an exam centre in Padubidri, and had written both the English and Maths papers, when one of his parents tested positive.

On Saturday, Primary and Secondary Education Minister Suresh Kumar told media of two other cases — one in Mallipattana in Arkalgud, Hassan, where a 16-year-old tested positive while writing the maths paper on Saturday, and another in Laxmeshwar in Gadag. Two primary and 19 secondary contacts of the student were quarantined. Besides this, SSLC officials in Pavagada, Tumakuru, were quarantined when an official who visited the centre tested positive.

Yet, the minister remained confident about conducting examinations. "I assure you that the education department will take care of these children even after examinations," he told the media on Sunday.

The department confirmed that the 18 students who had shared the exam hall at Hassan's Mallipattana Government PU College with a student whose tested positive, and the invigilator who supervised the hall, have all tested negative. All the students will appear for the next examination as usual from Monday, said officials.

Additional protocol such as 6-ft gap between two desks, one student per bench, and N95 masks will be in place.

Social distancing norms, desk placement, and rule for wearing masks compulsorily, will be strictly followed | EXPRESS

The Bangalore Student Community sent an appeal to the department of primary and secondary education, urging cancellation of the SSLC examination. The exams put the rights of lakhs of minor students at risk, and also compromises their fundamental right to health and life, they said. The state is exposing over 8.3 lakh minor students and other individuals to high risk of infection, they added.

Niranjanaradhya VP, senior fellow, CCL-NLSIU, said: "I sincerely appeal to the minister to reconsider the state's decision to continue exams, before things go out of hand. Medical experts and members of the task force are of the opinion that the pandemic has entered the third stage, ie community spread. We are in a high-risk state and bringing students in groups to write the exam is risky. The state itself is pushing for it, and has a primary obligation not push children into greater risk."

> **I assure you that the education department will take care of these children even after examinations**
> Suresh Kumar, Primary and Secondary Education Minister

> **We are in a high-risk state and bringing students in groups to write the exam is risky**
> Niranjanaradhya VP, senior fellow, CCL-NLSIU

Online classes are back with new set of temporary rules

PEARL MARIA D'SOUZA @Bengaluru

THE state government has come out with a new set of temporary guidelines on imparting online education to students. These guidelines are applicable to every school — those following SSLC syllabus, CBSE and ICSE. For students of Classes 1 to 5, teachers can hold two sessions of 30-45 minutes per day on alternative days only.

The government clarified that these sessions can be held only three days a week and the teacher and students will be present online at the same time, also known as synchronous teaching.

For Classes 6 to 8, synchronous teaching can be held for two sessions a day, each session not exceeding 45 minutes, for five days a week. Teachers can conduct four synchronous sessions a day for five days a week, each session ranging 30-45 minutes, for Class 9 and 10. As per these guidelines, kindergarten school teachers can hold only one online session per week, not exceeding 30 minutes, with parents to guide them.

The government said these guidelines will be applicable only until the expert committee appointed by it comes up with a comprehensive online teaching policy.

The decision comes days after the Karnataka High Court asked the state to come up with an interim solution till the expert committee submits its report. The state was told to consider limited number of e-classes, after a petition by parents and educational institutions, who questioned the ban on online classes. Schools had said they were affected by the ban as they had invested in online classes.

Traffic police look to mop up old fines

PREEJA PRASAD @Bengaluru

AFTER a gap of almost three months, with lockdown restrictions being eased, Bengaluru Traffic Police cops are back on the roads in full force. They are also back to slapping fines on violators. No new fines had been collected since the lockdown, however, BTP has started ensuring that old pending fines are being paid by citizens.

April onwards, contactless systems have been in place, like PPE kits with face shield, cooling glasses to cover the eyes, masks and sanitiser. A BTP officer informed that the department has been working on SOPs for traffic cops to follow. "We are still working on it and have not started issuing fines for traffic violations due to Covid-19," said a senior officer.

"Consultations on the SOP have started among experts, doctors and health officials. The update is likely to be released this week," the officer said. The department is also said to be looking into QR-based payments, or debit/credit card payments to collect spot fines. Several officers had raised the issue of collecting cash from violators, who could potentially be Covid carriers.

"We have started giving out kits and are taking precautionary measures," said DCP, Traffic (East), M Narayan.

SAVING THE ENDANGERED

BBP to get vulture breeding centre soon

BOSKY KHANNA @Bengaluru

TO protect the last surviving vultures in the hillocks of Ramanagara, the Karnataka Forest Department is now working with the Zoo Authority of Karnataka to set up a vulture breeding centre in Bengaluru Bannerghatta Biological Park.

The department is also working with its old plan on creating a vulture restaurant on the hill top of Ramanagara to feed the vultures and help increase their population.

Earlier the forest officials were working with experts to set up a breeding centre at the foothills of Ramanagara, but it will take time and the department is in a hurry. "Setting up a centre at Ramanagara from scratch will take time and it will be difficult for veterinarians to go there at regular intervals. So we have decided to

use the existing facilities at Bannerghatta and set it up at the zoo," Ajai Mishra, Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Wildlife, told The New Indian Express.

He along with zoo officials and veterinarians has already inspected the facilities at the zoo where the breeding centre can be set up. "We chose Bannerghatta because veterinarians are always available, more from GKVK can come any time. There is also sufficient staff to take care of the birds. Enclosures are also present. Besides, we want to start the breeding programme at the earliest and so Bannerghatta is ideal. In the meantime, works on conservation of vultures and the restaurant in Ramanagara will also start," he added.

The department is holding talks with the Zoo Authority of Karnataka and the Ramanagara district administration to speed up the works. The department is also working on tying up with those rearing cattle to hand over diclofenac-free dead cattle to feed to the vultures in Ramanagara, so that the vulture restaurant kick-starts to help revive the vulture population. The department is also spending Rs 130 crore to improve all facilities for setting up the vulture breeding centre and the vulture restaurant. They are also partnering with experts from other states and countries to bring in the best of practices.

Daily Starscope

PETER VIDAL

29th June: Monday, as you may have guessed, is the Moon's day: Moon Day is Monday - it's simple! People born under the influence of the Moon are supposed to have soft fleshy bodies and round faces - just like the Full Moon. If you can find one to look after you then you'll do well - they are also supposed to be good home-makers.

ARIES (Mar 21 - Apr. 20)
The fact that the Moon, ruling your emotions, is so very important today, suggests that not only is this a day to bring all existing plans to fruition, but also that you should do your best to force the pace. Other people need to remember who is top!

TAURUS (Apr. 21 - May 21)
It's not always a good idea to reveal all. In fact, you do seem to have something to be secretive about. All things considered, I'd say that so sudden and so curious is the current change in direction, that it may be the end of the week before you discover what is really going on.

GEMINI (May 22 - June 21)
You may throw yourself into social engagements with one hundred and one percent enthusiasm. It's a wonderful day for differences of opinion, so if you have anything to get off your chest, do so today. The one qualification is that you must stick to the facts.

CANCER (June 22 - July 23)
The time will come when you have to consider a professional or other worldly ambition in a new light. The only way to learn is to make mistakes, so don't worry about whether something is going to work out as planned. Just do it! You'll get it right next time.

LEO (July 24 - Aug. 23)
Today's energetic lunar alignments are splendid for all Leos everywhere. Focus on all adventurous schemes, throw caution to the wind and let yourself go. Hopefully, partners should take care of the practical ramifications. If they don't, then you can always sort them out in a few days' time.

VIRGO (Aug. 24 - Sept. 23)
Fortunate planetary pressures are set to produce increased prosperity and popularity for poor old Virgo! Help might come from where it is least expected, perhaps in the form of hard cash, hopefully within the next three days. If nothing happens now, then you might have to wait for another month!

LIBRA (Sept. 24 - Oct. 23)
The Sun extends its bountiful influence over you, indicating that a significant season is continuing. You may feel as if a family member is giving you a sideways push, temporarily knocking you off your perch. However, the lesson may be a salutary and much needed one.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24 - Nov. 22)
The theme for the day is hard work. In every area of life, even if you're pursuing a romantic goal, you should push yourself to the limit. There could be satisfactory developments for those of you contemplating major domestic upheavals, mainly because you're more determined than you were in the past.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 23 - Dec. 22)
As from now you should begin to allocate a higher priority to your creative powers and instincts. Today's forceful lunar alignment suggests that this is a positive time to lay your feelings on the line. Just make sure that you've got the facts straight.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 23 - Jan. 20)
A number of planetary cycles reach critical points today. Ambitious Capricorns are about to hit an assertive professional phase but, before then, all Goats must make the necessary adjustments at home. You can't afford to overlook any detail, no matter how small.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 - Feb. 19)
Today's harmonious planetary picture offers you the chance to conduct a minor revolution in almost whatever area of life you choose. Financially, keep a tight rein on family spending, and a close watch on younger relations. You need to know where to draw the line.

PISCES (Feb. 20 - Mar 20)
Many Pisceans labour under the illusion that they are thoroughly unmaterialistic and superior to such things as financial considerations. Just how wrong this is, will be proved over the next three days! There'll be times when you'll have a shrewd financial brain on those sensitive shoulders.

THE PHANTOM

DEPENDING ON HOW BADLY IT'S BEEN WOUNDED, THE LION WILL LIE DOWN AND DIE OR TURN TO HUNTING THE SLOWEST PREY OF ALL."
WE HAVE ENOUGH DAYLIGHT AHEAD, MY FRIENDS. LET US TRACK THE BEAST!"
WE'LL END HIS PAIN, AND WITH IT, THE DANGER HE POSES!"
HUMANS!"
Falk 4/27

HI AND LOIS

BEETLE BAILEY

WHAT ARE YOU EATING?
A PEANUT BUTTER, PEANUT BUTTER AND PEANUT BUTTER SANDWICH
I CAN NEVER DECIDE WHICH BRAND I PREFER
GREG MORT WALKER

BLONDIE

BOSS, MAY I TAKE FRIDAY OFF SO BLONDIE AND I CAN ENJOY A LONG WEEKEND AWAY?
THAT'S POSSIBLE...
IF I DON'T CATCH YOU PLAYING POKER ON YOUR COMPUTER THE REST OF THE WEEK
LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT GOING AWAY THIS WEEKEND

LOCKHORNS

DENNIS THE MENACE

Test your number crunching skill with our unique puzzle

SUDOKU

			4			1		
5		2		7	1			
1		7					6	
		1			8	4		5
	2			5			9	
4		5	3			6		
	7					8		1
			2	8		9		7
		8			9			

MEDIUM

- Fill in the grid with digits in such a manner that every row, every column and every 3X3 box accommodates the digits 1 to 9, without repeating any.
- Each sudoku has a unique solution that can be reached logically without guessing.

Solutions to Saturday's puzzle

9	5	4	2	7	8	6	1	3
2	8	6	3	1	9	5	4	7
1	3	7	6	4	5	2	9	8
8	4	2	1	9	3	7	6	5
3	7	1	5	6	4	8	2	9
6	9	5	8	2	7	4	3	1
4	1	9	7	8	6	3	5	2
5	2	8	4	3	1	9	7	6
7	6	3	9	5	2	1	8	4

JUMBLE — THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KAKIH

RGEEV

NOTENB

PAYNSP

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

"_____"
(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: INEPT LOUSY VERBAL CANOLA
Answer: When asked how many home sites were left, she said they had — LOTS AVAILABLE

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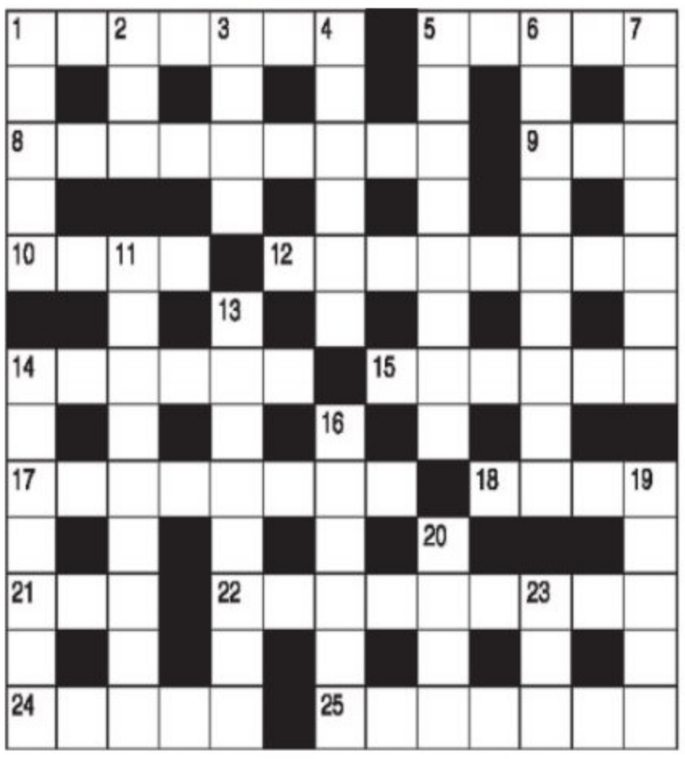
CROSS WORD



ACROSS

1 All hands to mow the crop (4,3)
5 It follows the cat back without comment (5)
8 They make up the family accounts (9)
9 Drink that helps to produce a merry evening (3)
10 Has now moved south (4)
12 When father returned by himself the rift was obvious (8)
14 Spirit a priest might conjure up (6)
15 Sally is kind, that is the end of it (6)
17 An essentially boring occupation (8)
18 Coming from an enemy this shouldn't be believed (4)
21 Firm's salad maker (3)
22 Spider natural at spinning (9)
24 Breaks support (5)
25 Nurse in bizarre sex case holds out (7)

DOWN

1 Without us being inquisitive is something rare (5)
2 Fish found in creels (3)
3 Turncoat old Roman (4)
4 Performers tore up in disarray (6)
5 One who leaves willingly (8)
6 Complain about a record made for the trade (9)
7 It has wings and flies (7)
11 The bloom of youth (9)
13 They make the least and the most effort on the track (8)
14 A cider's mixed in a cocktail (7)
16 Disloyal unit I have left with regret (6)
19 Warms up for the opening races (5)
20 This month in Westminster (4)
23 Badly run vessel (3)

SATURDAY'S SOLUTIONS

Across: 1 Excepted, 5 Isla, 9 Penal, 10 Airport, 11 Cabinetmaker, 13 Ensign, 14 Stroll, 17 Narrow escape, 20 Inmates, 21 Irene, 22 Eats, 23 Stands by.

Down: 1 Espy, 2 Canvass, 3 Polling booth, 4 Enamel, 6 Shock, 7 After all, 8 Prompt action, 12 Meantime, 15 Orpheus, 16 Tea set, 18 Remit, 19 Dewy.

Two men were murdered in separate incidents in Bengaluru on Saturday. Subramani (30), a gym trainer and history-sheeter was hacked to death on Saturday night. In another incident, Ramesh Kumar Khatri (40), a native of Rajasthan, was stabbed to death near Mysuru Road by unidentified men

STRAWS IN THE WIND

CM's table will be bare

Attendance at CM BS Yediyurappa's dining table has dropped. Sources said the CM has been advised by his officers in charge of security not to invite visiting MLAs, MPs, ministers and other dignitaries to share a meal, and instead, send them off after a hot cuppa. The CM, who is old-fashioned and polite in these matters, would affectionately ask, "Oota aitha? (Had your meal)?" and promptly invite them for breakfast, lunch or dinner. No more bonding over food in these Covidian times.

Too much in the sun?

When Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar was removed and R Ashoka brought in to handle the Covid pandemic in Bengaluru, the former's supporters cried foul. They said that Sudhakar was appreciated by Union Health Minister Harsh Vardhan, who had advised health ministers of other states to replicate the Karnataka model, during a video conference. Prime Minister Narendra Modi had also taken note of Sudhakar's efforts to keep the mortality rate low. More recently, Home Minister Amit Shah had personally called him... in other words, it's a case of being bang in the spotlight. All this attention has been cause of envy, his supporters bemoan.

LEAVING SAFETY TO GOD'S GRACE

Defying social distancing norms, devotees gather outside a temple on Hosur Main Road in Bengaluru on Sunday | SHRIRAM BN

Siddu demands white paper on Covid-19 expenditure

Says it's the CM's responsibility to clear doubts, reduce panic among citizens

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

LEADER of Opposition in the Karnataka Legislative Assembly Siddaramaiah has asked Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa's government to be transparent about its expenditure on Covid-19 containment measures. In a public appeal on Sunday, Siddaramaiah asked Yediyurappa to release a white paper on the money spent for handling Covid-19 crisis including ramping up healthcare facilities.

"People are extremely worried about the state of our healthcare system and the government's preparedness to address the pandemic. It is the CM's responsibility to clear doubts and reduce panic among citizens. I urge the government to release a white paper on the issue. The CM should let the people know how much of their money has already been spent to improve healthcare facilities, how much the capacity of beds and ventilators has been increased and about the supply of PPE kits to corona warriors," Siddaramaiah said.

Following the public appeal, Siddaramaiah is all set to write official letters to Yediyurappa and Chief Secretary T M Vijaya Bhaskar urging them to release a white paper. "Yediyurappa should also reveal what the contribution of PM Modi has been to Karnataka. People should know if Yediyurappa has demanded assistance from the PMO, how much funds from PM Cares has been spent on Karnataka's healthcare infrastructure," he urged.

In a series of tweets, Siddaramaiah said the Yediyurappa government and as well as the Centre had wasted too much time during the lockdown period. "The purpose of lockdown was to fill the gaps in healthcare system. But they just widened it by frequently changing the protocols and by not doing adequate tests. @CMofKarnataka & other depts have failed to answer my multiple queries regarding the actions taken. As a leader of the opposition, it is my right to question the govt on behalf of people. Deliberate act of denying information is a breach of privilege (SIC)" Siddaramaiah tweeted.

Sudhakar's tweet shoots barbs at Ashoka over Covid charge

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

REVENUE Minister R Ashok has been facing flak from his cabinet colleagues ever since he was made in charge of Bengaluru's Covid-19 management on Saturday.

Medical Education Minister Dr K Sudhakar took to Twitter on Sunday to make his disappointment public. "Sunday thoughts: I am sharing a story which I read in my school days. Moral of the story: Let's do our job with conscience and with a great sense of purpose. I believe that Leadership is not in position but in action."

When asked whether the tweet was a dig at him, Ashoka walked away without answering.

He was given charge of Covid management after Dr Sudhakar chose to go for voluntary quarantine after his family members tested positive. Dr Sudhakar on Sunday made the test results of his and his staff public, sending out a message that he is sure to return to work anytime this week.

Sources said that Health Minister B Sriramulu and Deputy Chief Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, who is a trained doctor, too are disappointed with Ashok's appointment.

Writer Geeta Nagabhushan dies after heart attack

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Kalaburagi

Renowned litterateur Dr Geeta Nagabhushan (78), a recipient of the Nadoja Award, died in a private hospital in Kalaburagi on Sunday evening. Family sources said she complained of chest pain in the evening and was admitted in a private hospital where she died after a massive heart attack.

Geeta chaired the Akhila Bharata Kannada Sahitya Sammelana in 2010 and was a recipient of the Kendra Sahitya Akademi award. Born in 1942, she authored 27 novels, 50 short stories, 12 dramas and one research paper. She had retired as principal of the Nagareshwara High School in Kalaburagi two decades ago.

EXPRESS READ

ASHA workers demand 12K pay, better PPEs, to hold protest tomorrow

Bengaluru: ASHA workers are holding a state-wide demonstration on Tuesday to demand a minimum monthly wage of ₹12,000, high-quality PPEs and other benefits. They have also decided to boycott all services, if their demands are not met by July 10. ASHA workers had staged protests earlier this year in January, and submitted seven memorandums, listing their pressing demands which were not met. The Karnataka Rajya Samyuktha ASHA Karyakarteyara Sangha has decided to hold protests to bring their woes to the notice of the State government.

Only one mask, sanitiser bottle so far: Page 4

Vishwanath eyes literary quota for Council seat, pins hope on BSY

I increased BJP's vote share in Hunsur from just 3,000-4,000 votes to 57,000 votes. Is it not a contribution to the party?

Adagur H Vishwanath, former MP

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

A year after dissidence rocked Karnataka, and power changed hands, 'rebel leader' Adagur H Vishwanath is upset that the BJP has failed to honour its word. He hasn't openly expressed his frustration at being left out of the MLC list, though.

"I increased BJP's vote share in Hunsur from just 3,000-4,000 votes to 57,000 votes. Is it not a contribution to the party," he asks indignantly. Insiders said it was similar indignation that caused him to leave the JDS, after he was made to wait for over an hour for then CM HD Kumaraswamy, at the Taj West End.

Vishwanath, who is struggling to get himself on the MLC nomination list, said he has written seven books on democracy and other aspects, and qualifies for the slot for litterateurs.

He reminded Yediyurappa and BJP that he had contributed to bringing in this government, and should be considered. Insiders said that Vishwanath is slated to meet Chief Minister B S Yediyurappa next week, as the BJP prepares to finalize the list of nominees.

Both MTB Nagaraj and H Vishwanath are Kuruba (backward) leaders who had held important positions in the previous government -- Nagaraj was minister, while Vishwanath was party president of JDS, which was then in power. Both contested elections and were defeated. While Nagaraj was made MLC, Vishwanath was ignored, but he is optimistic that Yediyurappa will keep his word.

GREEN WARRIOR

Kaamegowda seeks funds to interlink lakes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

When he got Shekhawat's call, the unassuming Kaamegowda greeted him with a 'Namaskara'. As part of the initiative to recognise, appreciate and join hands with all water warriors across the country, Shekhawat had a detailed conversation with Kaamegowda.

The minister, who came to know of Kaamegowda's efforts through this reporter's tweet recently about two more ponds being built by Gowda, had an hour-long video conversation with the octogenarian about his efforts and achievements. After a virtual tour of all the lakes he has built over the last few decades, Kaamegowda requested the Union Minister to fund and facilitate the interlinking of his lakes.

The minister asked the officials to obtain details of Gowda's request and submit it at the earliest. He assured Kaamegowda of discussing it with Karnataka CM B S Yediyurappa and facilitating possible action in this regard.

It was about 40 years ago when Kaamegowda realised that the almost barren Kundinibetta hill next to his village had sparse shrubs with almost no greenery. While taking his flock of sheep grazing on the hillside, he saw animals and birds stressed from the lack of watering holes on the hill. He decided to dig smaller ponds for animals and birds and humans.

All these years, almost every day between 5 am and 9 am, he has dug ponds, and grazed sheep from 9 am to 7 pm. "Sometimes, I used to go to the hillock to dig a pond during night armed with a lamp or on a full moon day," he told *TNIE* then.

He sold his sheep and purchased a shovel, spade, pickaxe, and other tools to dig a pond. Later, he spent all his savings. By 2018 he had constructed 14 ponds. The same year Karnataka Government recognised him and awarded the prestigious Kannada Rajyotsava award. He is also the recipient of Basavashri Award. He spent the award money on his lake mission.

ASI who died tests positive for virus

ENS @Bengaluru

THE swab samples of an ASI who died two days ago tested Covid-positive on Sunday. The 57-year-old ASI of Whitefield police station is the fifth city policeman to die of Covid.

MN Anucheth, DCP Whitefield, said the policeman collapsed in his house on Saturday night and his family members rushed him to the hospital where doctors declared him brought dead. Later, doctors had taken swab samples from the body the results came positive on Sunday.

The DCP West office was sealed for the next three days after a constable tested positive on Sunday. Police said that the officials are home quarantined. The Woman Police Station in Shivajinagar was sealed for the next three days after a constable tested positive.

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED

CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521

No.:EEE/AEE(O)/KMWD/20-21/376-377 Date: 19.06.2020

NOTIFICATION

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited has formulated scheme under section 67 of the electricity supply act 2003 and the same is here with published in pursuance of section 67(2) (C) of the scheme are as follows.

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount in Lakhs
1	Establishing 2x8 MVA, 66/11 kV Sub-Station at Rayalpadu in Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar Dist and construction of 66KV LILO line on DC towers with Coyote ACSR from the existing 66 kV Lakshimipura-Addgal SC line for a distance of 7.929 Kms.	Rs. 736.17

1) Establishing 2x8 MVA, 66/11kV sub station at Rayalpadu Srinivasapura Taluk, Kolar Dist and construction of 66KV LILO line on DC towers with Coyote ACSR from the existing 66 kV Lakshimipura-Addgal SC line for a distance of 7.929 Kms. **2)** DWA Cost : **Rs. 736.17 Lakhs. 3)** New 66 kV line Pass through the villages Name and Survey Nos.

Sl. No.	Tower No	Survey Nos	Village Names
Hobli: Rayalpadu, Taluk : Srinivasapura, District: Kolar.			
1	TW No: 1 to 2	6	Shettivarapalli
2	TW No: 2 to 3	6,7,9	
3	TW No: 3 to 4	109, 110, 117, 116	Amani Narashinah Nayakana Kere
	TW No: 3 to 4	93, 97, 98	Amani Vasanta Nayakanakere
4	TW No: 4 to 5	18, 17	Shettivarapalli
5	TW No: 5 to 6	17, 21, 23	
6	TW No: 6 to 7	17, 21, 23	
	TW No: 6 to 7	137	Amani Vasanta Nayakanakere
7	TW No: 7 to 8	85, 18, 17, 84	Tamatapalli
8	TW No: 8 to 9	84, 16, 14	
9	TW No: 9 to 10	14	
	TW No: 9 to 10	36, 38	Kunditavaripalli
10	TW No: 10 to 11	1	Pottepalli
11	TW No: 11 to 12	1, 2, 8	
12	TW No: 12 to 13	8, 3, 2, 4, 5	
13	TW No: 13 to 14	2, 17, 15, 16, 14	Kunditavaripalli
14	TW No: 14 to 15	18, 11, 10	
	TW No: 14 to 15	41, 40	Sanakanvaripalli
15	TW No: 15 to 16	48, 49	Tirumalappanayakana Amanikere
	TW No: 15 to 16	43, 49	Sanakanvaripalli
16	TW No: 16 to 17	48, 49	
	TW No: 16 to 17	9, 8, 2, 3	Yarmavaripalli
17	TW No: 17 to 18	2,3,4,18,16,19	
18	TW No: 18 to 19	16	
	TW No: 18 to 19	56	Mudivarapalli
19	TW No: 19 to 20	56, 47, 59, 51	
20	TW No: 20 to 21	51, 55	
21	TW No: 21 to 22	55, 47	
22	TW No: 22 to 23	47	
23	TW No: 23 to 24	47, 56	
24	TW No: 24 to 25	56	
25	TW No: 25 to 26	56	
26	TW No: 26 to 27	34	Rayalpadu
27	TW No: 27 to 28	34, 31, 30	
28	TW No: 28 to 29	30, 34, 40, 41	
29	TW No: 29 to 30	40,62,63,64,103	
30	TW No: 30 to 31	103, 100, 101, 99, 86, 88, 81	
31	TW No: 31 to 32	81,79,78,77, 160,159,158, 157,156,155	
32	TW No: 32 to 33	155, 154, 153, 151, 152	
	TW No: 32 to 33	87	Manchevarapalli
33	TW No: 33 to 34	87,85,84,83,82	
34	TW No: 34 to 35	82, 16, 67, 65, 70	
35	TW No: 35 to 36	70, 65, 63, 73, 53, 52, 42	
36	TW No: 36 to 37	42, 44, 45, 26	
	TW No: 36 to 37	265	Rayalpadu
37	TW No: 37 to 38	265	
39	TW No: 38 to 39	265	
40	TW No: 39 to Bay	265	

KPTCL shall have exercise all powers which the telegraphic authorities possess under Part-3 of telegraphic act 1885(13 of 1885) for implementation of the above schemes. Any objections regarding the above schemes shall be sent to the undersigned within one month from the date of publication of this notification for KPTCL pursuance.

Sd/- **Executive Engineer (Ele)**
Major Works Division, KPTCL, Kolar

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my client intends to purchase the schedule Property from **Sri. M. Ashwathappa**, S/o. Late Munishamappa and others, all are R/at No.143, Mallasandra, BaktaraHalli Gate, Baktarahalli, Hoskote, Bangalore Rural District, Bangalore-560067.

Any Person having any objection regarding the said sale transaction, may contact the undersigned advocate with relevant documents within **7 days** from the date of this publication failing which it shall be deemed that there is no objection of any nature and my client will complete the sale Transaction.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and Parcel of the **Agricultural Land bearing New Sy.No.545/2 (old No.112), Situated at Malur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar,** measuring 1-00 Acre, and Bounded on: **East by :** Land bearing to Venkataramanappa, **West by :** Remaining portion of Same Sy No.112 (New No.545/1), belonging to Sri. Amaresh and Sri. Umesh, **North by :** Green Garden Layout, **South by :** Malur KSRTC Depo.

Sd/- G.R. SURESH KUMAR, Advocate
No.48, 1st Floor, 4th A Main Road, Hebbal, Bengaluru-560024.

Education. Goals. And game changing decisions.
edex
Every Monday with
THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

PUBLIC NOTICE
CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, M. Sadanandan, aged about 65 years, S/o. Late Perumal Manickam, R/at # 85 Gandhiji 2nd Street, Karur Bye Pass Road, Erode Tamil Nadu - 638 002 and presently residing at RH-14, Rajni Ashish Rose, Vibgyor High School Road, Thubarahalli, Bangalore - 560 066 have changed my name from **'M. Sadanandan'** to **'P M Sadananda'** Vide Affidavit dated 26.06.2020. Sworn before Advocate & Notary Indira S.S, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Mr. JAGADISH**, aged about 48 years, S/o. Mr. Nandoji, residing at No. 653, 8th Cross, Triveni Road, K.N. Extension, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore - 560 022, have changed my name from **Mr. JAGADISH** to **JAGADISH MALVIYA, Malviya** is sure name both are same person, its my name, I will be continued asper affidavit dated 22-06-2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary A.M. Rama Murthy Reddy, Bangalore.

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **Krishna Devaraya Bangalore Rajanna**, resident of No.3, SKR Residency, Koramangala, 8th Block, Bangalore - 560095, have changed the name of my minor son from **Kirtyraj Krishna Devaraya** to **Tejas Krishna Devaraya** vide affidavit sworn before Notary Puttaramaiah dated 28/06/2020.

AFFIDAVIT

I, **THANGARAJ**, aged about 27 years, S/o. Sri. Amsu M., residing at No. 95, 1st Cross, Kothanur Dinne, J.P. Nagar 8th Phase, near Ganesha Temple, Bannerghatta Road, Bangalore - 560 076. I state that my mother **M. Pushpa W/o. Sri. Amsu M. died on 28.02.2015** at Bangalore, Karnataka. I state that the place and Date of Death mentioned above of my mother are true and correct. Vide affidavit dated 09-06-2020 sworn before Advocate & Notary A.M. Rama Murthy Reddy, Bangalore.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client intends to purchase the property bearing No.1336, PID No.72-4-1336, situated at Binnamangala II Stage, Bengaluru, measuring East to West 33.73 mtrs. and North to South 10.97 mtrs., totally measuring 371.11 sq.mts. i.e. Schedule Property from its owners, **Sri. R. Ravi Kumar and Sri.P.Ramesh,** sons of **late Ramaiah,** residing at No.309/3, 17th Cross, 2nd Main Road, BSK II Stage, Bengaluru-560 070 with the confirmation of **Sri G. Shankar,** S/o late Govindappa, No.22, 4th Main, 2nd Cross, Kathriguppe Village, Behind SLN Bakery, Banashankari III Stage, Bengaluru-560 085 and **Sri. Shashishekar Naik,** S/o late Haridas Naik, No.33/34, `Nisarga Arcade', Papareddypalya, Nagarabhavi 2nd Stage, Bengaluru-560 072 as confirming parties as there is an Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the owners and confirming parties. In this regard, our client intends to proceed with the sale transaction in respect of the Schedule Property with the aforesaid owners.

Any person/s, financial institutions, banks, Societies, claiming any right/ title/claim over the Schedule Property should file their objections along with documentary proof in support of their claim, within **10 days** from issuance of this notice. Objections will not be entertained which are not supported by documentary proof and if objections not received within 10 days, the same will not be entertained.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Property bearing No.1336, PID No.72-4-1336, situated at situated at **Binnamangala II Stage, Bengaluru,** measuring East to West 33.73 mtrs. and North to South 10.97 mtrs., totally measuring 371.11 sq.mts. and bounded as follows:-

East by : Road **West by** : Site No.1335
North by : Site No.1337 **South by** : BDA Property

(D.S. Jayaraj) Advocate
No.22/G-8, Ground Floor, Krishna Towers, 3rd Main, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru-560 009.

Place : Bangalore, Dated : 29.06.2020

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS

COVID-19

04 BENGALURU MONDAY 29.06.2020

TRACKING COVID-19

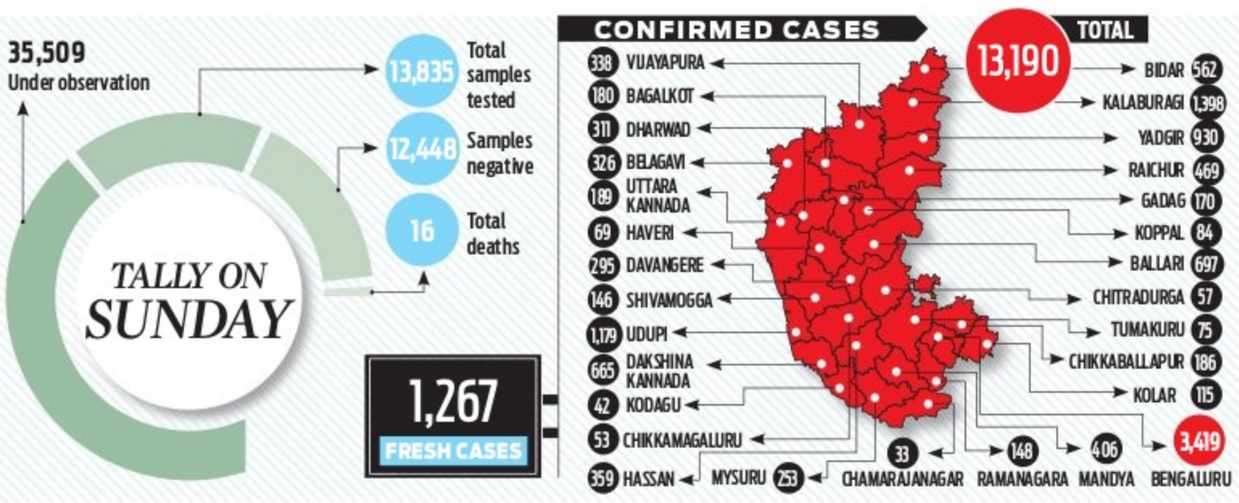
After announcement of Sunday lockdown from July 5, Chief Secretary TM Vijay Bhaskar has issued official orders on its implementation for the subsequent four Sundays. Government offices should function five days a week from July 10 to August 8. Night curfew will be between 8 pm and 5 am

220 NEW RECOVERIES

7,507 TOTAL RECOVERED

HELPLINES
080-46848600
080-66692000

104 Arogya Sahayavani will function too



Morning walkers take a selfie at Cubbon Park on a Sunday. The administration has ordered Sunday lockdown in Bengaluru for the next month | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

Now, patients to get test results from BBMP, not labs

IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

HENCEFORTH, the patients will not get their Covid-19 test results directly from the laboratories. Instead it will be the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike officers who will reveal the results to the patients.

In a circular released by the Directorate, Health and Family Welfare Services, Dr Om Prakash Patil, Director, said that the results' status should not be conveyed to the individual by the authorities of the government or private laboratories. Further, all government and private laboratories should upload the details of both positive and negative cases in the ICMR portal daily. And that the details of positive results should be submitted to the concerned district surveillance officers, Covid surveillance officer, BBMP and the State surveillance unit, Bengaluru.

But the public health experts said it was not right not to let the patients know about the results first.

Dr Sylvia Karpagam, Public health doctor and researcher, said, "Ethically it's not correct to withhold the reports from patients, they should instead know about it first. The order states that the results go to ICMR and then BBMP. We already know how dysfunctional BBMP is. If people have to wait for the BBMP to give the reports, it may take time and they will be stressed. If they know the results, they can directly go to the designated hospitals. For patients who are symptomatic, their symptoms might be getting worse and they will not know what to do till they get the results, as the hospitals will not take them until they show their reports."

Security personnel at KR Market which was sealed down after a Covid positive case was reported on Sunday | PANDARINATH B

Another public health expert on condition of anonymity said, "The order is not clear on how patients will get to know the test results."

When TNIE reached out to Dr Patil, he said, "There have been many cases where patients are being told by the laboratories that they have tested positive, and then the patients do not go to the designated hospital and there is no sign of them. Hence, this order was issued. Now, the BBMP officers will be given the list of positive patients and they will go to the patients' houses and pick them up and take them to the designated hospitals. But in the cases where results are negative, the laboratory can inform the patients directly."

> **Ethically it's not correct to withhold the reports from patients, they should know about it first. The order states that the results go to ICMR and then BBMP. If people have to wait for the BBMP to give the reports, it may take time and they will be stressed**
>
> Dr Sylvia Karpagam, Public health doctor

BMCRI sharing docs, nurses with other hospitals

They are being sent to RGICD, Bowring Hospital, ESI hospital and Haj Bhavan

RANJANI MADHAVAN AND IFFATH FATHIMA @Bengaluru

AS corona cases rise in Bengaluru, doctors and nurses from the Bangalore Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) are being deputed to other hospitals and Covid care centres.

With this, the work hours are set to get longer for them. Normally they would work for seven days and quarantine for 14 days but the latter has reduced to seven days now.

Dr Smitha Segu, Task Force Head and Nodal Officer for Covid-19 at Victoria Hospital said, "We are sending our staff to Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Chest Diseases, Bowring Hospital, Haj Bhavan which is set to become a Covid care centre, ESI hospital, etc."

She added that the staff of their community medicine department is deputed for surveillance and screening activities in the city.

When asked if supplying staff to other hospitals will create vacancies at Victoria Hospital, Dr Segu said right now they have enough staff but if more patients are admitted in the future, then they will have shortage of staff, as doctors will also have to be sent to other hospitals.

In any given week, 75-80 doctors are stationed for Covid-19 duty in Pradhana Manthri Swastya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) Hospital under Victoria. There are 500 staff members including professors and assistant professors as well as 600 PG students.

"Moreover, asymptomatic patients do not require a doctor to be present all the time. For every 35 asymptomatic patients there is one doctor, two nurses and one group D employee. And for every 25 symptomatic patients with or without co-morbidities, there is one doctor, one nurse and one group D employee," she added.

SARS-CoV-2 EXTREMELY resilient, so Beware!

THE RAPID INCREASE IN COVID-19 CASES ACROSS THE WORLD HAS A REASON

The SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes the dreadful infection is extremely resilient and can survive on surfaces much longer than expected. This is because it has a very hard outer shell that protects its protein content from external environmental impacts. A recent study has explained why we are faced with this kind of a virus.

A study published by Elsevier's Microbial Pathogenesis has found that the outer membrane protein of the virus has a very low percentage of intrinsic disorder, or PID.

The membrane denoted as 'M' has a PID of just 6 per cent, which means that the outer shell is extremely hard — one of the hardest among the family of coronaviruses. The hardness of the shell — denoted as 'M PID' — determines how long the virus can remain outside the body, and also survive within body fluids.

The harder outer shell plays a greater and more immediate role in protecting the virion from environmental damage as it encases the entire virion.

Because of its very hard outer shell, SARS-CoV-2 is likely to be more resistant to antimicrobial enzymes in body fluids

SARS-CoV-2 is able to remain infectious in the environment for the longest time regardless of being in residues of faeces, mucus, vomit, sweat, or saliva

Viruses that are notorious for lasting in the environment for a long time such as the smallpox virus, have low outer shell PIDs -- lower the outer shell PID, harder the shell

As a result, an infected person is likely to shed greater numbers of viral particles that remain active longer to infect others. Which is why the importance of wearing proper masks and maintaining physical distance from one another.

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

The study was conducted by an international team of researchers from Centre for Computational Biology & Bioinformatics, Indiana University School of Medicine, Indianapolis; Department of Biological Sciences, University of Idaho; Institute for Biological Instrumentation, Russian Academy of Sciences, Russia; and Goh's BioComputing, Singapore.

Only one mask, sanitiser bottle so far: Mysuru ASHA workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mysuru

CASTING a shadow on Mysuru's relatively cleaner track record in ensuring adequate resources to its Covid warriors, ASHA workers on Sunday alleged lapses on the part of the administration.

The workers claimed that though they are conducting a health survey in containment zones for the last three months, they were given just one mask and a 50 ml sanitiser bottle. The face shield that was promised has not reached all of them.

"In containment zones, we do thermal screening and check the condition of vulnerable populations. Residents here are worried about their safety, seeing us roaming around with just the mask and without the face shield or gloves. But the authorities are apathetic," said Sunitha, an ASHA worker from Mysuru city.

Shubhamangala, District Secretary, ASHA Workers' Association, alleged that officials often neglect their demand for masks and sanitisers, and they have to depend on NGOs. "We were given a pair of gloves only once and when we asked for more, they asked us to wash it and reuse it," she said.

They alleged that the Rs 3,000 honorarium announced by the cooperation department is yet to reach the health workers in the city.

Chandrashekhar Metti of the All-India Democratic Youth Organisation said that ASHA workers also have to battle for their wages every month since they do not have a fixed salary except an honorarium of Rs 4,000.

TESTING TIMES

Three die in Dakshina Kannada dist

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mangaluru

THREE more Covid-19 patients died in Dakshina Kannada on Sunday, taking the toll in the district to 13, including two non-Covid deaths, while 97 fresh cases were reported. A 48-year-old woman SARI patient from Bantwal, suffering from diabetes, a 31-year-old man from Surathkal, suffering from asthma and pneumonia, and a 51-year-old woman SARI patient from Jokatte, suffering from tuberculosis, died in the last 24 hours.

The burial of a 31-year-old man from Idya at Suratkal who died of coronavirus on Saturday night was opposed by a few locals at Bolar. The burial was first scheduled at Idya, but as the pit dug there was filled with rainwater, it had to be shifted to Bolar. But locals protested saying the burial ground is meant only for local residents and forced the officials to shift the body. Finally, the funeral was held at Bolar itself on Sunday evening after Mangaluru Assistant Commissioner Madan Mohan convinced the locals.

4 Covid deaths in Ballari

Ballari reported four Covid-19 deaths on Sunday, taking the toll to 14. A 60-year-old patient from Adoni in Andhra Pradesh, a 65-year-old man from Rupanagudi village of Ballari taluk, a 63-year-old man from Ballari Fort area and a 58-year-old man from Ballari city are the victims.

Policemen and a marshall fine a person for not wearing a mask in public | NAGARAJA GADEKAL

DCPs n BBMP are on streets to enforce wearing of mask and SD. Warnings now, criminal cases will follow. Urge every Bangalurean to enforce mask enforcement and SD. If people argue call 100, we are ready to respond to your calls. RWA n Traders Please Donate Masks to underprivileged

Bhaskar Rao

B'LURU TOP COP URGES PEOPLE TO ENSURE OTHERS WEAR MASK

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

AS the city has been reporting a high number of Covid-positive cases, City Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao on Sunday urged people to take the initiative and ensure that fellow citizens wear masks compulsorily and maintain social distancing.

Following up on his Friday's order of making violation of mask guidelines a cognisable offence, Rao on Sunday tweeted, "DCPs n BBMP are on streets to enforce wearing of mask and SD. Warnings now, criminal cases will follow. Urge every Bangalurean to enforce mask enforcement and SD. If people argue call 100, we are ready to respond to your calls. RWA n Traders Please Donate Masks to underprivileged."

He added, "Don't bother about high and mighty factor, whosoever it is, just tell people around you to wear mask and not hanging around neck."

He further said that if shops, malls, banks, hotels, offices and establishments do not ensure wearing of masks and social distancing, the police will raid such premises and initiate legal action.

The order bars gatherings of more than 20 people in indoor programmes. The order will be in effect till July 26 midnight.

COVID WATCH

Quarantine norms tweaked again

The state has again tweaked the quarantine norms for inter-state passengers. An order by N Manjunath Prasad, Principal Secretary, Revenue Department, said, "Those coming from other states, apart from Maharashtra, shall be placed in 14-day home quarantine." However, the quarantine norms for people coming from Maharashtra remains the same, which includes seven days of institutional quarantine and seven days of home quarantine. ENS

Staffers at maternity hospital tested

A day after BBMP Commissioner B H Anil Kumar said that the staff at Ulsoor BBMP Government Hospital, where an operation theatre technician was found positive, will be tested, swab samples of six staffers were taken on Sunday. But no tests have been carried out on new mothers, who went there for delivery. Around 20 women and their newborns are at "high risk" after the technician, who assisted in the deliveries, tested positive. The commissioner has ordered an inquiry by CHO Nirmala Buggi. ENS

Pvt hospitals can't say no to Covid patients

The state government on Sunday passed an order making denial of treatment to patients suffering from Covid or Covid-like symptoms by private establishments a punishable offence under the Disaster Management Act. "The non-compliance of this order will attract punishment under the relevant sections DMA 2005, KPME 2017 and the Indian Penal Code," stated the order passed by Chief Secretary T M Vijaya Bhaskar. Also, Vijaya Bhaskar issued a circular forming new task teams to check facilities at private medical colleges and hospitals. A team headed by T K Anil Kumar, Principal Secretary, Medical Education Department, will be in-charge of private medical colleges, while the other team headed by N Jayaram, BWSSB chairman, would take care of facilities at these hospitals. ENS

ALL ENDS WELL

Covid-hit sons' love for nonagenarian mother moves babus

SUBHASH CHANDRA N S @Karwar

THIS is a story of three sons, who were infected by Covid-19, and their mother, who is in her 90s and ailing. When the three children tested positive and the authorities wanted to shift them to a Covid-designated hospital in Karwar, they refused to move, saying they could not keep their mother alone at home as she needed constant care.

Moved by the son's concern, officials heeded to their request and shifted their mother too to the hospital, but to a separate ward. The risk paid off, as the three were cured and discharged after seven days, while the mother too returned home without any hassles.

The 96-year-old woman was staying at Sadashivghad near Karwar, while the sons worked in Mumbai. After they returned to their hometown recently, all the three tested positive. But they refused to be shifted to the hospital, and when the officials inquired, they came to know that the sons did not want to leave their enfeebled mother at home, all by herself, as there was no one to take care of her.

Gajanan Naik, Dean, Karwar Institute of Medical Sciences, told TNIE, "We were initially clueless and informed the deputy commissioner of Uttara Kannada and assistant commissioner Karwar, who too tried to convince the infected sons. As is the procedure, we took the swab sample of the woman and fortunately, she tested negative. We tried to convince the sons saying that because of their mother's advanced age, she could be at a higher risk of contracting the virus. But they refused to listen. We decided to take an undertaking from the sons and shifted the woman to a room adjacent to the ward where her sons were being treated."

He said, "We ensured that she never came in contact with any Covid patients at the hospital. Whenever it was felt necessary, she was wheeled around. Her sons were in the hospital for seven days and were discharged. Just before the woman left the hospital, her swab samples were taken again and tested. It returned negative."

The number of new Covid-19 cases in Tamil Nadu continued to rise with 3,940 being reported on Sunday, raising the state's tally to 82,275.

THOOTHUKUDI BRUTALITY

TAMIL NADU CM TO TRANSFER CUSTODY DEATH CASE TO CBI

State government will wait for case to come up before Madras High Court

Tamil Nadu minister Kadambur Raju and AIADMK leaders meet the family members of P Jayaraj and Beniks (below) at Sathankulam in Tuticorin district

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Salem / Thoothukudi

IN a major development, Chief Minister Edappadi K Palaniswami said on Sunday evening that the custodial deaths of father and son, Jayaraj and Beniks, will be transferred to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI).

The Madurai Bench of Madras High Court has taken suo motu cognizance of the case. "While the case comes for hearing in Madurai Bench of Madras HC, the government will explain this decision. After getting the court's nod, the case will be handed over to CBI," Palaniswami added.

"We have already given instructions to the police about handling the public and traders calmly. If any problem arises, the police shall register a case and take action. We also instructed the police not to disturb the public unnecessarily," the CM added.

Jayaraj and his son, Beniks, had been rounded up on June 19 for keeping their mobile shop at Sathankulam in Thoothukudi district open beyond the curfew hours.

On June 20, the duo had been remanded to Kovilpatti sub-jail, where they had allegedly been beaten up in custody.

They were reportedly denied medical assistance for two days before being taken to the Kovilpatti Government Hospital on June 22, where they succumbed to serious injuries in a span of few hours.

Inspector suspended

Almost five days after the incident, Tirunelveli DIG Praveen Kumar Abinapu suspended Sathankulam Inspector Srithar on Sunday till the completion of inquiry. Inspector Bernad Xavier has replaced Srithar, according to sources in the DIG office.

So far, five police personnel have been suspended in connection to the death of the two traders.

On June 23, four policemen, including two Sub Inspectors Ragu Ganesh and Balakrishnan, and Constables Murugan and Muthuraj, were suspended, while Inspector Srithar had been transferred and placed on the waitlist.

Cop suspended for comments on FB

Chennai: A constable was suspended by the Chennai city police for making a derogatory comment on a Facebook post written by a milk vendor, who expressed solidarity for the father-son duo who died. M Sathish Muthu, the constable, commented, "We were looking for people for another custodial death and now we've got you." ENS

Advocates' forum condemns deaths

Chennai: The Tamil Nadu Senior Advocates Forum at the Madras High Court has condemned the custodial deaths of the father-son duo at Sathankulam. The association, in a strongly worded statement, said the incident shows lack of respect for the rule of law and makes people lose confidence in the administration during trying times. ENS

Info Minister's remarks irk many

Thoothukudi: The Sathankulam incident is not a case of custodial deaths as the two traders died at Government Kovilpatti Hospital, said Minister for Information and Publicity Kadambur C Raju. After his comments denying the custodial death came under criticism, Raju said his statements were twisted purposely. ENS

SI, constable booked for death of 25-yr-old

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Tenkasi

IN another incident of custodial violence, Veerakeralampudur police registered a case on Sunday against a Sub-Inspector and Constable under Section 174 (3) of CrPC for allegedly beating up a 25-year-old-youth in custody, who died on Saturday.

The case was registered after over 200 people of Veerakeralampudur blocked the Surandai-Alangulam road on Saturday night in protest, after the victim, Kumaresan, who was under treatment for 15 days at Tirunelveli Medical College Hospital, died. In his petition to the Superintendent of Police Suguna Singh, the victim's father Navaneethakrishnan, alleged that his son had told him and the doctors that the SI and Constable had beaten him severely on his hands, legs, back and his private part on May 10.

SMILING OUT THE STORM

In the past two weeks, many houses were severely damaged due to the turbulent sea along the coastline of the Cheraman West beach in Kodungallur. However, children from the area manage to keep these worries aside and have some fun | ALBIN MATHEW

KCR to soon decide on 15-day lockdown in Hyderabad

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Hyderabad

CHIEF Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao will take a decision on imposition of lockdown in the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) limits for 15 days after discussing the proposal in the State Cabinet meeting in four days.

While reviewing the incidence of Covid-19 with Health Minister Eatala Rajender and officials at his official residence Pragathi Bhavan here on Sunday, the Chief Minister said that since Hyderabad is a very large city where around one crore people live, it is but natural that the number of Coronavirus cases was going up each day like in all other major cities.

He said that he would, nonetheless, consider the suggestions for imposition of lockdown for 15 days which came from the medical fraternity. "I will call the Cabinet meeting in four days and after discussing the proposal, will take a decision," he said, adding that for imposition of lockdown, the police department has to be prepared once again.

He said that if the lockdown were to be imposed, responsibility of enforcing it totally rests on the government. "Curfew has to be in force throughout the day and night except for a few hours in the morning to help the people buy essential commodities and not allow trains and flights to arrive or leave from the state. Before any decision is taken, all these factors would be studied," he said.

The Chief Minister said that after lockdown has been lifted there was a marked increase in the movement of people on roads. In Chennai, lockdown was reimposed because of the same problem and that several cities too were contemplating to go in for lockdown once again, he said.

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao, MP Uttam Kumar Reddy and kin of late Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao pay floral tributes to the late leader during the centenary celebrations in Hyderabad on Sunday | EXPRESS

PVN's CENTENARY EVENTS BEGIN

Nizamabad: Former Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao's centenary celebrations kicked off in Nizamabad district on Sunday. District Collector C Narayana Reddy launched the celebrations. Several officials, including Nizamabad commissioner of police Karthikeya and MLC Akula Lalitha, were present at the event. Officials, while speaking at the event, recollected Rao's contributions to the nation and praised his leadership qualities. ENS

Two new task forces formed to tackle Covid

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CHIEF Secretary T M Vijay Bhaskar has issued an order to form two new task forces — one headed by T K Anil Kumar, principal secretary to the Medical Education department, and the other by N Jayaram, Chairman, Bangalore Water Supply & Sewerage Board (BWSSB).

While the former will look into private medical colleges, bed allotments, Covid care centres and medical staff strength, the latter will look into private hospital facilities. Both will report to BBMP Commissioner B H Anil Kumar.

The Chief Secretary also issued an order warning private hospitals not to refuse treatment to Covid-19 patients.

The order states that private medical establishments in the state shall not deny/refuse/avoid treatment to patients with Covid-19 and similar symptoms. They shall also strictly adhere to to the provisions under Section 11 and 11 A of the Karnataka Private Medical Establishment (KPME) Act, 2017, it adds.

"Non-compliance of the order will attract punishment under the relevant Sections of Disaster Management Act, 2005, KPME Act, 2017 and the Indian Penal Code," the order warns.

Currently, Bengaluru has 65 active containment zones. The other districts with high number of cases on Sunday are Dakshina Kannada with 97, Ballari with 71, Udupi, 40, and Kalaburagi, 34.

> Non-compliance of the order will attract punishment under the relevant Sections of Disaster Management Act, 2005, KPME Act, 2017 and the Indian Penal Code
>
> Govt order

For the past two days, the state has left out the category of contact history, travel history, SARI or ILI case in its bulletin, which is usually mentioned against each patient's details.

Officials, however, said the daily bulletin will revert to its previous form in a day or so.

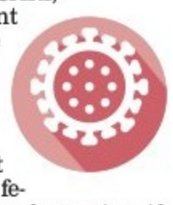
Post announcement of the Sunday lockdown, Chief Secretary Vijay Bhaskar issued official orders giving it effect from July 5 for the next four Sundays.

He ordered government offices to function for five days a week from July 10 to August 8, and revised curfew timings between 8 pm and 5 am on all days of the week.

'SARI cases usually sent for Covid testing directly'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

WHILE medical establishments report SARI, ILI and Covid-19 suspect cases, pharmacies send data regarding cases of fever, allergies and cough.



"Information about the SARI, ILI and other cases are sent to Apthamitra helpline and the health authorities follow up with the patient/suspect. They will either aid them with telemedicine or direct them to a fever clinic. The fever clinic then directs them for testing, if needed. If they test positive for Covid-19, they are sent to Covid care centres or designated hospitals. As the SARI cases are serious, they are usually sent for Covid-19 testing directly," said an official from the Health and Family Welfare department.

EXPRESS READ

Andhra Deputy CM in home quarantine after 2 staff test +ve

Chittoor: Two security personnel deployed to guard the residence of Deputy Chief Minister K Narayana Swamy in Puttur have tested positive for Covid-19. All family members, including the Deputy CM, were then tested and their results came negative. The minister and his family have decided to go under home quarantine for 10 days. The personnel were deployed in containment zones in Tirupati and Puttur. ENS

Indian seafood exporters to China fear retaliation

RAJESH ABRAHAM @Kochi

CALLS to boycott Chinese products have left the Indian seafood exporters fearing retaliation even as the military standoff between the two neighbours threatens to derail economic ties. With China being the second biggest market for seafood exports from India, the stakes are high for exporters who are battling the economic fallout of Covid-19 and the subsequent lockdown.

"There is a sense of panic among seafood exporters. We have been getting calls from our members on whether there will be retaliation from the Chinese side," said Alex K Ninan, president of the Seafood Exporters Association of India (SEAI) - Kerala region.

"We hope that things do not escalate further."

Indian seafood exports to the Middle Kingdom have been growing at a healthy clip from $227.39 million in 2017-18 to $811.14 million in 2018-19, an increase of 256 per cent. For the year ending March 31, 2020, Indian seafood exports to China are expected to cross $1 billion, an official said.

> There is a sense of panic among seafood exporters. We have been getting calls
>
> Alex K Ninan, SEAI president - Kerala region

SOUTHERN POWER DISTRIBUTION COMPANY OF TELANGANA LTD.
e-Procurement Tender Notice

TSSPDCL intends to float tenders for Automatic remote reading system of the existing HT Consumer Meters covering all twenty circles of the Company on OPEX model with one data center, one web server (cloud) and running the data center on e-procurement platform for 5 years. For further details, please visit **www.tssouthenpower.com** and **www.tender.telangana.gov.in**, Phone: 9490758491.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (IPC&RAC)

R.O. No: 685-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2020-21

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NOTICE INVITING TENDER (NIT)
REF. No. : MAT(P) / ERE / 61016 / MS GRATINGS / 96 DATE : 29.06.2020

FOR MANUFACTURING, TESTING, INSPECTION, SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 'M.S. ELECTRO-FORGED GALVANIZED GRATINGS' FOR OUR GACL, HH CIVIL & STRUCTURAL PROJECT SITE AT DAHEJ, GUJARAT.

SEALED TENDER IN TWO-PART BID SYSTEM ARE INVITED FROM INDIAN MANUFACTURERS FOR SUPPLY OF 'M.S. ELECTRO-FORGED GALVANIZED GRATINGS' AS PER DRAWINGS/STANDARD – TOTAL QTY. 628 MT (APROX).

LAST DATE OF SUBMISSION OF BID (IN HARD COPY ONLY): 15.07.2020 UPTO 5.30 P.M..

FOR DETAILS AND TO DOWNLOAD THE TENDER (NIT) PLEASE VISIT B&R'S OFFICIAL WEBSITE : www.bridgeroof.co.in (Live Tender section)

CORRIGENDUM/ ADDENDUM NIT, IF ANY, SHALL BE HOSTED IN COMPANY'S WEBSITE ONLY.

KARNATAKA STATE BEVERAGES CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
4th Floor, TTMC 'A' Block, BMTC Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bengaluru-560 027. Ph: 22483636/38/39 e-Mail: homail@ksbcl.com
No: KSBCL/MI/Tender/AMC/SVR/006/2020-21 Date: 29.06.2020

Re-TENDER NOTIFICATION

Karnataka State Beverages Corporation Limited (KSBCL) invites online tender under KTPP Act 1999, Rules 2000 from the interested bidders for "**Annual Maintenance Contract for Servers at KSBCL IML Depots**". The detailed tender documents can be downloaded from eprocurement website: **https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in** and also from corporation's website **http://www.ksbcl.com** under tab what's new.

Last date and time for receipt of Offers: **14.07.2020, 17:00 Hours.** Date and time of opening of Offers: **16.07.2020, 11:30 Hours.**

For further clarifications, please contact the above mentioned office during office hours.

Sd /- Executive Director (F & A)

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CIN No.: L93090TN1956GOI003507, Website: www.nlcindia.com

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS FOR WORKS (e-Tender Sl. No.2 to 6)

Sl. No.	Tender Ref./Description of works
1.	**NTPL/TUTICORIN: EXPRESSION OF INTEREST: CEO/NTPL/C&P/FINANCE/ CONT/2573/2020-21:Expression of Interest** for Empanelment of Partnership/ Limited Liability Partnership Firms of Cost Accountants for conducting post audit in NLC Tamilnadu Power Limited (NTPL), for the financial year 2020-21,2021-22 & 2022-23.
2.	**CEO/NTPL/CIVIL/CONT/PTE/2503/2020-21:** BMC for cleaning in and around boiler floor area of Unit-1 & 2 at NTPL Plant,Tuticorin. **EMD:** ₹ 4,64,000/-
3.	**CEO/NTPL/TRANSPORT/CONT/PTE/2560/2020-21:** Hiring of 6 No's of Tata Sumo or Equivalent Vehicle on 12 hours basis for NTPL. **EMD:** ₹ 60,000/-
4.	**UNIT:THERMAL POWER STATION–II:GM/ Contracts/Thermal/3537-TS2/CM/PTE/2020-21 dt.23-06-2020:** Providing walkway shelter from Main Gate to service Building and from service Building to industrial canteen of TPS II. **EMD:** ₹ 81,000/-
5.	**GM/Contracts./Thermal/3538-TS2/EM/PTE/2020-21:**Repair and rectification of HT Motors. **EMD:** ₹ 1,12,000/-
6.	**UNIT: THERMAL POWER STATION–II EXPANSION: GM/ Contracts/Thermal/T-453/TS2E/Civil/PTE/2020-21:**Re-carpeting of the BT road from C gate to SRC gate in TPS II Expansion **EMD:** ₹ 1,54,000
7.	**UNIT: TOWNSHIP ADMINISTRATION: 034/CB/20-21:** Replacement of LT Panel and connected works in various places at Neyveli Township. **EMD:** ₹ 1,52,000/-
8.	**GM/TA/033/RB/20-21:**Providing 40 man shifts per day at Neyveli Township area, round the clock for security assistance duties. **EMD:** ₹ 3,02,000/-
9.	**035/OC/20-21:**Construction of New workshop building and other infrastructure facilities for establishing New ITI at Block 12 in NTS. **EMD:** ₹ 4,25,000/-
10.	**UNIT:CTO/CIVIL:16/2020-21:** Face lifting works to Mini Auto with electrical works at Block 10 of NTS. **EMD:** ₹ 1,23,000/-
11.	**UNIT:MINE-II:GM/T/MII/NA/SUR/PTE/C019/2020-21:** Survey – Non AMC-Non short term –Assisting surveying and levelling works in expansion area including New surface bench system and CME working area in and around Mine-II during 2020-21. **EMD:** ₹ 52,000/-

Cost of tender documents: Sl.No.1: ₹ 5,000/-; Sl.No.2 to 11: ₹ 2,000/-(each)
Approximate value of the work: Sl.No.4: ₹ 37,30,327.06; Sl.No.6: ₹ 64,12,290/-
Gross Tender Value : Sl.No.7:₹ 61,59,155.38; Sl.No.8:₹ 1,20,65,719.68; Sl.No.9: ₹ 1,92,12,641.27
Period of Contract/Work/Completion: Sl.No.2: Two years from the date of handing over of site; Sl.No.3: Two years from the data commencement of work: Sl.No.4: 180 days from the date of handing over of site.; Sl.No.5:120 days from the date of LOA; Sl.No.6: Six months from the date of handing over of site; Sl.No.7 & 9: 150 days from date of handing over site.(each work); Sl.No.8: Twelve months from date of handing over of site.; Sl.No.10: 240 days from date of handing over site.
Pre Bid Conference at 11.00 Hrs.: Sl.No.3: On 08-07-2020; Sl.No.6: On 03-07-2020

S.No.	Last date for sale	Last date for Receipt	Date & Time of Opening
1	----	17-07-2020 Up to 14.30 Hrs.	17-07-2020 At 15.00 Hrs.
2	16-07-2020 Up to 16.00 Hrs.	18-07-2020 Up to 14.30 Hrs.	18-07-2020 At 15.00 Hrs.
3	16-07-2020 Up to 17.00 Hrs.	18-07-2020 Up to 14.30 Hrs.	18-07-2020 At 15.00 Hrs.
4,6&7	14-07-2020 Up to 16.00 Hrs.	16-07-2020 Up to 14.30 Hrs.	16-07-2020 At 15.00 Hrs.
5&9	15-07-2020 Up to 16.00 Hrs.	17-07-2020 Up to 14.30 Hrs.	17-07-2020 At 15.00 Hrs.
8	08-07-2020 Up to 16.00 Hrs.	10-07-2020 Up to 14.30 Hrs.	10-07-2020 At 15.00 Hrs.
10	04-07-2020 to 03-08-2020	04-08-2020 Up to 14.30 Hrs.	04-08-2020 At 15.00 Hrs.
11	15-07-2020 Up to 15.00 Hrs.	16-07-2020 Up to 15.00 Hrs.	16-07-2020 At 15.30 Hrs.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS/CORRIGENDUM VISIT: www.nlcindia.com
PUBLIC SECTOR IS YOURS : HELP IT TO HELP YOU

EDITORIAL

Too limited a lockout period risks the lives of potentially hundreds of thousands of people; too restrictive a lockout could result in the eruption of serious social unrest

Devesh Kapur

INDIAN EXPRESS IS NOT AN INDUSTRY. IT IS A MISSION.

— Ramnath Goenka

AMID PAKISTAN TERROR SANCTUARY INDICTMENT, IMRAN'S MASK SLIPS OFF

PAKISTANI Prime Minister Imran Khan last week let the cat out of the bag, calling slain global terrorist Osama Bin Laden a martyr, leading to widespread outrage. Osama was taken out in a pre-dawn swoop in 2011 by US special forces in Abbottabad without keeping Pakistan in the loop, embarrassing its military establishment big time as his house was adjacent to an army garrison. Imran's martyr remark brought back memories of his justifying the Taliban movement in the past, which earned him the 'Taliban Khan' moniker. He later moderated his articulation, particularly after he became PM, but the liberal mask slipped off last week. However, it tallied with the latest US State Department's indictment of Pakistan continuing to serve as a safe haven for terror outfits targeting India and Afghanistan. The report faulted Islamabad's rulers for making no effort to prosecute Jaish-e-Mohammad founder Masood Azhar and Sajid Mir, who masterminded the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. Both are "widely believed to reside in Pakistan under the protection of the state, despite government denials", it asserted. Another player in the 26/11 plot, Tahawwur Rana, has been arrested in the US following India's extradition request. A former Pakistani army officer, Rana conspired with his buddy David Coleman Headley to help execute the Mumbai terror attacks. His extradition would strengthen India's case on Pakistan being the epicentre of global terror.

Support to terror was the principal reason why New Delhi threw a curve ball to downgrade bilateral ties. It directed the Pakistan High Commission in Delhi to cut its staff by 50% within a week, adding India would do so reciprocally. Pakistan is already on the grey list of the Paris-based Financial Action Task Force (FATF) for lax policing of terror financing. The arrogant neighbour is keenly aware that it has few friends globally. For instance, even its principal allies chose not to take its side against India's punitive airstrikes on a Jaish terror camp deep within Pakistan in Balakot. As for its economy, it was already a basket case before Covid struck. Instead of theatrics like the sudden offer to open the Kartarpur corridor for Sikh pilgrims, it ought to clean up its terror slate. But that could be wishful thinking till Imran is in the saddle.

HOW TO TACKLE POLICE BRUTALITY

IT is the police, not corona," chanted an angry mob of Kenyans carrying a dead body and marching towards the police station. The man had been beaten to death on the streets of Mathare, one of the largest slums in Kenya, allegedly by the cops. A BBC documentary on police atrocities in Mathare in the name of imposing a lockdown to contain Covid has gone viral.

Back home, the brutal death of a father-son duo in police custody in Sathankulam, Tamil Nadu, has grabbed international attention. As per complaints received by the NHRC, a total of 15 people died in police custody or by police beating between March 25 and April 30 in India. None of those hit the headlines. It was the sheer triviality of the reason behind the arrest of this duo—for keeping their shop open late—and the alleged brutality inflicted upon them that made the public take notice. The fact is unlawful detentions, custodial torture and usage of excessive force have globally risen sharply since lockdowns were imposed.

From George Floyd in America to Jeyaraj and Beniks in Sathankulam and the violence in Mathare, the use of excessive force by police is clearly visible everywhere. In the Thoothukudi police firing two years ago, cops who opened fire at 13 civilians are yet to be brought to justice. It's now evident that no lessons have been learnt in TN. For years, police have been claiming that they counter violence within the force through sensitisation camps. But in a society like ours—where human rights are not taught or practiced in schools and homes—awareness camps for cops are wasted efforts. What is required is an overall social transformation. Parents using violence to discipline kids must understand that is where everything begins. Movie-makers must put an end to glorifying extra-judicial killings. The judiciary must ensure justice is delivered when such horrific incidents happen. Schools must consider teaching children human rights. Most importantly, the effort must come from within the police force to bring the wrongdoers among them to justice. Until then, perpetrators of violence will continue to walk free.

The focus should be on awareness. Aggressively enforcing lockdowns does lasting damage to people's trust in government, thus negatively impacting public health efforts

LOCKDOWNS SHOULD NOT BE POLICING-LED

ANAND SANKAR
Founder of Kalap Trust, an NGO working on public health in Uttarakhand

DR ANANT BHAN
Researcher, global health, bioethics and health policy

AMIT BANDRE

AFTER a brief period of some kind of an 'unlock', the dreaded lockdown is making a comeback in the Indian Covid-19 response vocabulary. The city of Chennai and the state of West Bengal, among other locations, are implementing lockdowns, and it's likely other areas might follow suit. It's time to reflect on the experiences of communities under the initial phases of the lockdown and look at lessons that we can draw from this on how to structure public health responses to a spread of infection.

The urge for enforcement during the lockdown and the fact that decisions were taken often arbitrarily without public health advice being integral to them meant that the response was often a law-and-order one, enabled by the exercise of state might, rather than a supportive, evidence-based public health one. Only the latter would enhance the possibility of communities following public health norms like physical distancing, avoiding social interactions, etc.

Let's take the story of a small and remote region in Uttarakhand, Mori Tehsil, where one author works. It is a geographically hard-to-access part of India, which at the time of writing this article, has not reported a single case of Covid-19. The people of the region should rightly be relieved, looking forward to whatever normal life is possible. But as the author found out during the last trip up, the region and its people have been scarred even before the dreaded virus reached them.

The populace is fearful of not the virus, but the containment measures that come with it. For almost 45 days of the lockdown, before things eased up a bit, there were multiple accounts of people being randomly caned by police and authorities or vehicles being impounded when people were just going about their normal essential lives. People tending to their fields, going to check on their orchards, walking their cows, attending to emergent community issues, or just sitting outside their own house in one case, you name it, all have been roughed up at some point or another—because the area had to be 'locked down, those were the orders'.

We have seen stories of excessive use of force from across the country, but we want to just pause and reflect on the case of this one region. Why was there a need or justification for any form of force in a sparsely populated area, which had not seen a single case of Covid-19? How would this in any way help in building community support for public health measures, rather than creating fear about the disease and the state response to it?

The region faced heart-rending scenes. Like many other parts of Uttarakhand, hundreds of youth and men returned to their villages due to economic collapse across the country. Many of them struggled for days to find transport to get them to their home state and then onwards to their respective villages. After enduring untold hardship, a kick in the gut awaited them at their doorsteps. Many villages didn't want anyone to enter them anymore. They were and still are fearful of the virus reaching them—and worse, the containment measures that come with it. The returnees were told to head back, as far away from the villages as possible. A couple of families one of the authors spoke to revealed that it is community pressure that is forcing them to turn back their loved ones, while this is glossed over as 'voluntary' in public. Thankfully, due to the government stepping up with clear quarantine protocols and most of the migrants having returned, the situation has stabilised for now. But it is now unclear how villagers will learn to 'live with the virus', as normal economic activity, i.e. people visiting from outside, will have to resume sooner than any solution is found for Covid-19.

The populace in a remote region in Uttarakhand, where there has been no Covid case yet, is fearful not of the virus, but of the containment measures. There were multiple accounts of people being randomly caned by police for just going about their lives. Most have been roughed up at some point—because the area had to be 'locked down, those were the orders'

If you thought rumours and fake news spread only on WhatsApp, the bush telegraph appears to be equally good. Many villages have forbidden villagers from going to the nearby market to buy any vegetables as rumours have spread that vegetables spread the virus. Thus, pregnant women and children who desperately need the nutrients are denied access to them. Many villages have decided that any packaged products have to be quarantined for 14 days. None of this is of course scientific, but there is no active government outreach to counter this misinformation.

The situation of the local community health workers (CHWs) is the direst. They had to manage quarantined individuals in village centres and monitor the community. There is evidence of open hostility to routine door-to-door questioning for ILI (influenza like illness) symptoms, which is being perceived as hostile by the local community (why repeatedly question people who have not come in contact with the virus?). The time is not far, when if there is a Covid-19 case within the CHWs, they themselves will be ostracised. Imagine the ripple effect this would have on our public health programs like pregnancy care, immunisation or monitoring tuberculosis.

As Covid-19 spreads through the country, it will reach remote parts eventually. We can help communities and local governance systems prepare for this, so that when cases do occur, the response is sensitive and evidence-based. But rather, the experience of Mori Tehsil and many more such regions in the country show that our missteps during the lockdown might have alienated the local populace and contributed to a loss of trust in the government. This could mean that when cases pop up, or individuals have symptoms, they would hesitate to report to government facilities, scarred as they were by the heavy-handed policing-led response during the early lockdown.

We must introspect about how we can fundamentally amend our response to situations like pandemics to not be adversarial towards communities, but rather be focused on partnerships. Only then, perhaps, we will be successful in our Covid-19 strategies in most parts of this country, especially the rural and remote ones.

(Tweets @kalapian, @AnantBhan)

DATA LOCALISATION: ROADBLOCKS AND THE WAY FORWARD

AMAR PATNAIK
Rajya Sabha MP and former CAG bureaucrat with a PhD in management

BIPUL CHATTERJEE
Executive Director, CUTS International

OVER the last couple of years, data localisation has become a hotly debated issue right from the time the Reserve Bank of India came out with its notification mandating 'storage of payment system data' within India. Subsequently, the proposed Personal Data Protection (PDP) Bill, 2019, also envisages a graded localisation regime for different categories of data.

While these regulative measures can be seen as 'push' options, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman's 2020-21 Budget announcements incentivising the private sector to set up data centres/parks across the country is an effort at 'pulling' entrepreneurs to develop an Indian market on data storage and processing, much in the same way as in the West. The issue is likely to gain fresh thrust in light of PM Narendra Modi's recent call for *Atma Nirbharta* (self-reliance) as a measure to revive the economy in a post Covid-19 world. Together, these developments have the potential to propel the growth of India's data storage and processing industry significantly, by unlocking new opportunities for domestic businesses.

On the flipside, studies have pointed out some possible adverse impacts of mandating data localisation by law (hard regulation) and/or disconnecting from global value chains and the impact on multiple stakeholders including MSMEs. Hence, a cautious approach needs to be followed.

Problem areas: While data localisation may facilitate growth of data centres in India, along with its positive impact on national security, economic development, etc., a study by Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS), a think tank, on consumer impact assessment of data localisation found that it may have an adverse impact on freedom of speech, privacy violations, data breaches and cyber-attacks, and most importantly on innovation. This is largely due to an inadequate data security regime and data breach laws, weak compensation regime for data breaches and high compliance costs, particularly for MSMEs, start-ups, etc.

Another CUTS study found that data localisation may have an adverse impact on India's digital services export. One of the major factors behind India becoming a world leader in digital services export is uninterrupted flow of data across borders and favourable policies.

Data localisation may add a regulatory compliance cost to the companies, particularly the MSMEs, and hinder the participation of domestic start-ups in global value chains, thereby affecting foreign investment and innovation in the country. In the PDP Bill, data has been categorised into personal, sensitive and critical data. While there is no restriction on processing or storage of personal data, sensitive data must be mirrored in India and can be processed outside India. Critical personal data cannot, however, be processed or stored outside India though what is critical personal data has not been defined in the Bill and has been left to the Centre to notify later. This has brought the spectre of surveillance on citizens not just by government but even by foreign agencies and social intermediary data fiduciaries.

This has the potential to propel the growth of our data storage and processing industry. On the flipside, studies have pointed out possible adverse impacts of mandating it by law and/or disconnecting from global value chains and the impact on multiple stakeholders including MSMEs

Though the country is generating enormous amounts of data, it does not have the capacity to store them within its territory under the data localisation mandate and has a long way to go with regard to the availability of data centres in comparison to developed countries as well as its peers in the Asia-Pacific region.

Need a balanced approach: We have to understand that the data economy is a sunrise sector in India. Our data consumption has been rapidly increasing over the last few years. For example, within a month of the imposition of a countrywide lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, data consumption in rural India witnessed an almost 100% jump. With an evident growth in data generation from increased business transactions through electronic means and supplemented by data localisation policies and laws, this is an appropriate time to incentivise local private players to establish data centres in India rather than creating a hard regulations regime. We should adopt a 'regulatory sandbox' approach including regulatory impact assessment.

By 2024, the data centre market in India is expected to generate revenue worth $4 billion. In order to handle this increasing data volume from data localisation, India would need to ramp up its data centres capacity by at least 15 times over the next seven to eight years. Though investments are coming in, there is still a need to remove regulatory hindrances.

As much as 60 different permits are needed to establish data centres in India, which span 15 government departments. Similarly, issues such as uninterrupted power supply, quality and availability of brick and mortar infrastructure in land banks, expensive real estate and networking components also act as roadblocks. The recent announcement by the PM of bringing in an ecosystem of 'plug and play' is the way forward.

It is important to understand that along with ensuring data access to law enforcement agencies for providing security as a public good and securing data of Indian citizens from foreign surveillance, the government's move towards data localisation may be seen as a decisive and robust step towards making India the data services capital of the world by providing cheaper and more efficient options to corporates, banks and multinationals. It would help generate employment opportunities, and spur domestic innovation.

(Kapil Gupta, Assistant Policy Analyst at CUTS International, has contributed to this article)
(amar_patnaik@yahoo.com)

MAILBAG

WRITE TO: letters@newindianexpress.com

Probe custodial torture

The chilling case of police brutality on a father-son duo in Thoothukudi has evoked dreadful memories of the Emergency. They were traders and their only crime was not following curfew timings during the lockdown. What necessitated the police torture that ultimately led to their custodial deaths needs to be thoroughly probed into.
Narayanaswamy Raman, Parali

Cong foundation & funds

It is astonishing that the Rajiv Gandhi Foundation has not denied receiving huge funds from the Chinese embassy and grants from the PM's National Relief Fund. Instead, only counter-allegations have been raised. An enquiry should be conducted to unravel the truth.
Sundaram Govind, Aluva

Why was BJP silent till now?

The NDA has been in power for over six years and its anti-corruption stance is unquestionable. Then why has the RGF funds issue been made public only now when China attacked India? It has become the BJP's wont to rake up a corruption charge when the party is in a tight corner.
R Krishnamachary, Chennai

Biden's views disturbing

It is disturbing to note that US Democratic Presidential candidate Joe Biden has lectured India on Kashmir, CAA and NRC. He seems to have forgotten that every country chalks out policies to suit the prevailing conditions. Has Biden found time to condemn China for its imperialistic ambitions? Or for being responsible for the coronavirus spread?
K V Seetharamaiah, Hassan

Intellectual giants

This is with reference to *From Aryabhateeya to the Kerala school of mathematics* (June 27). The column throws valuable light on the contributions of giants like Aryabhata, Brahmagupta, Bhaskara-II and Madhava to mathematics.
Prajnya Priyadarsini Mishra, B'neshwar

India's contributions

The article vividly portrays India's original and indelible contributions to the growth of mathematics. Kudos to the author and the newspaper for publishing the column that delves into the annals of history and contains very interesting information about the evolution of maths in our country.
Chilaka Venkateswarlu, Chennai

Article on maths refreshing

Thanks for publishing the insightful article on mathematics. No politics. It was refreshing.
N Mohan, email

Calling them names not OK

I was disappointed with T J S George's article *'Crappiest team' vs China* (June 28). Quoting Aakar Patel to call Mr Goyal "a glorified shopkeeper" and the finance minister "dumb as a rock" is not in good taste. Being critical of them over any specific work done is fine, but calling them names is not.
G Krishna Kumar, Bengaluru

T J S George writes: Sorry if the passage I quoted offended you. No offence was meant. I respect your view and appreciate your expressing it. Thank you.

Agri reforms much-needed

The article *A new deal for our country's farmers* (June 27) was informative. The author has not only rightly brought out the benefits of the recent agri-related ordinances, but also rendered a couple of valuable suggestions. There has not been enough awareness about the important and much-needed reforms.
R Haripanth, Chennai

Covid discipline necessary

The sudden surge in Covid-19 positive cases in Kerala has happened due to the huge influx of expatriates. We can't help it. But the callous attitude on the part of citizens in view of the relaxation of lockdown restrictions has posed a serious concern. Self-discipline has to be practised by every law-abiding citizen.
P K Sreevalsan, Kannur

THE NEW INDIAN EXPRESS
Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **G S Vasu**
Resident Editor (Karnataka) : **Santwana Bhattacharya*** Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 56, No. 154 RNI Reg. No. 3457/1960. Phone: 080-22866893, Fax: 080-22866617. * Responsible for selection of News under the PRB Act. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

TWEETS OF THE DAY

Sitaram Yechury @SitaramYechury
PM's unilateral, unplanned national lockdown pushed a faltering Economy further into a recession.

Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi @naqvimukhtar
While entire country is strongly working for turning "disaster into opportunity", Congress is trying to turn "disaster into anarchy".

Sanjay Jha @JhaSanjay
Custodial deaths are barbaric... We cannot fail the unfortunate Jeyraj and his son. Our criminal justice system needs reforms.

China got a strong reply: PM on Mann ki Baat

Modi said India honours spirit of friendship but is also capable of giving an appropriate response to any adversary

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

EXUBERATING confidence that the country will emerge stronger, Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** on Sunday said that India is very well tackling the border issue with China.

In his monthly radio show, 'Mann Ki Baat', Modi paid tributes to 20 Indian soldiers who had died in the violent clashes with Chinese troops on June 15 in Galwan Valley and said, "In Ladakh, those who challenged us were given an adequate response. Our braves made supreme sacrifice but did not let adversary prevail. We feel the pain of their loss. Their valour is India's strength."

"Those who cast an evil eye on Indian soil in Ladakh have got a befitting response. India honours the spirit of friendship. It is also capable of giving an appropriate response to any adversary, without shying away," he said in his address without naming China.

"The inner sense of pride that families feel on the supreme sacrifice of their brave sons their sentiment for the country, constitutes the true power, the might of the country.

India bows to our brave martyrs. They have always kept India safe," PM Modi said.

Without mentioning China, he quoted a Sanskrit sloka *"Vidya vivaad dhanam madaya, shakti pareshan paripeedanaya. Khalasya sadho vipareetam etat, gyaanaya, daanaya cha rakshanam* (For crooked persons, knowledge is meant for arguments, wealth for ego, power for troubling others. The opposite is the case among noble souls, knowledge is meant for wisdom, wealth for donation and power to protect the weak)."

Modi, asking the citizens not to be hopeless, said the challenges that 2020 had brought to the country, like Covid-19, cyclones Amphan and Nisarga, locust attacks should not weigh the country down.

"We must face the challenges and use them to march ahead," he said.

Stressing the importance of becoming self-reliant, Modi said, "India is unlocking, be it in sectors like coal, space, agriculture and more. It is time for us to work together to make India self-reliant and technologically advanced."

Modi also paid tributes to late Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, whose centenary year celebrations are being kicked off on June 28.

STAND OFF AT LAC

Athletes run towards the burial site of martyr Birbhum district | PTI

J-K govt directs oil companies to stock LGP for 2 months

Amid ongoing stand-off between Indian and Chinese troops in Eastern Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir government has directed Oil companies to stock LGP for two months and instructed district administration in central Kashmir's Ganderbal district to provide accommodation to security forces in educational institutions. In a separate order, Deputy Commissioner Ganderbal has been directed to provide accommodation to security forces in at least 16 educational institutions of the district. The strategic Srinagar-Leh national highway, which connects Kashmir with Ladakh, passes through the Ganderbal district and army is shifting men and machinery through to frontiers in Leh through this highway. Similar measures were taken by then government before Balakot strike in February 2019 and scrapping of Article 370 in the Valley.

Jamshedpur businessman cancels order with Chinese company

Looking at anti-China sentiments flaring up in the country, a Jamshedpur-based businessman has cancelled orders for furniture and lightings worth Rs 5 crore, placed earlier with Chinese companies for his under-construction hotel. According to the businessman, he will now go for made-in-India products only for his hotel in solidarity with the Indian Army who have been working hard to protect our borders at Indo-China borders. Harvinder Singh, who has been constructing a huge hotel in Adityarpur of Jamshedpur, said that most of the items ordered by him are ready for dispatch but he has put all that on hold. Even though, he has paid around 1 crore in advance, he will not use Chinese goods for his hotel. "I also appeal my countrymen to give a chance to Indian companies who also have the capacity to produce better quality products," he said.

Bodhgaya hotels ban Chinese guests amid tension at border

Chinese pilgrims will not be offered accommodation at hotels in Bihar's Bodhgaya now. Hoteliers at the famous Buddhist pilgrim site have decided to enforce a ban on tourists of Chinese nationality in protest of the PLA's actions along the LAC in Ladakh. The world-famous Mahabodhi temple, the holiest shrine in Buddhism, at Bodhgaya attracts 10 to 15 thousands of pilgrims from China every year. Mahabodhi temple is built at the site where Gautam Buddha attained enlightenment while meditating under the Bodhi tree. The Temple was declared as UNESCO World Heritage in 2002. According to the decision by the local hoteliers, no one coming from China will be given rooms at their hotels in Bodhgaya. The decision was taken at a meeting of the Bodhgaya Hotel Association and the Bodhgaya Restaurant Association.

India-China stand-off dominates politics in Madhya Pradesh

It's not only national politics, but politics in Madhya Pradesh too seems being dominated by China – at a time when the defence forces of both nations are engaged in eye to eye situation on the LAC. It all began with BJP national vice president and former Rajya Sabha member Prabhat Jha dubbing former MP CM Kamal Nath as "Chinese Agent" for having reduced import duties on Chinese products during his stint as the union commerce and industries minister. The attack was further intensified on Saturday, when state BJP president VD Sharma accused Nath of favouring China while being country's commerce and industry minister in the UPA government and reducing import duties on 250 items manufactured in the China. The former minister in a letter to CM demanded the work order allotted to the Chinese company be cancelled.

It is a matter of self-introspection for him and the Congress that his hashtag is being taken forward by Pakistan and China.
Amit Shah, Union Home Minister

When will there be talk of nation's defence, security? Nepal has for the 1st time deployed its Army at border. If Modi is there, this is possible
Rahul Gandhi, Congress ex-chief

SHAH, RAHUL IN WAR OF WORDS OVER PM'S CHINA STANCE

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

UNION Home Minister Amit Shah accused Congress leader Rahul Gandhi of engaging in shallow politics at the time of crisis

"We are fully capable of handling anti-India propaganda but it does pain when a former president of such a big political party does '*ochhi rajiniti* (shallow politics)' at a time of problems," said Shah in an interview with a news agency.

He however dodged all the questions related to China, instead said would like to answer questions on Covid-19 situation in the capital.

Following the India-China face-off in Galwan valley, Gandhi had accused Modi of surrendering Indian Territory to the Chinese and his words

Rahul questions PM 'again' on China

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Sunday asked when will there be talk about the nation's defence and security. His comment came ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Mann ki Baat' programme aired on the All India Radio. Gandhi has been posing tough questions to the Centre and seeking answers from the PM on the stand-off with China.

'Surender Modi' soon was trending on Twitter. "Narendra Modi is actually Surender Modi," Gandhi had tweeted.

Shah said it should be a matter of introspection for Gandhi and the Congress party that the hashtag was liked by Pakistan and China.

"It is a matter of self-introspection for him and the Congress that his hashtag is being taken forward by Pakistan and China. It is not for me... You say what China and Pakistan like. And at this time of crisis," said Shah.

He said he would be ready to debate on issues starting from 1962 till now when the Parliament convenes. "Let's have a discussion from '62 till now. But at a time when jawans are fighting at the border and the government is taking concrete steps, we should not be giving statements that make Pakistan and China happy," said Shah.

He said the BJP did not appoint members of the family as party presidents. "After Advaniji, Rajnathji, Nitinji, Rajnathji again, I became (party president) and now Naddaji... After Indiraji, tell me one person who is from outside the Gandhi family. What democracy are we talking about?"

PM-CARES Fund got Chinese donations, alleges Cong's Singhvi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

HITTING back at the BJP for raising the issue of funding to Rajiv Gandhi Foundation, the Congress on Sunday alleged that Chinese firms were contributing to PM-CARES Fund and asked why it was accepting such donations at a time when India and China have been engaged in a tense border standoff.

There was no immediate response from the government on the allegations.

Congress spokesperson **Abhishek Singhvi** questioned PM Narendra Modi on his "18 meetings" with Chinese President Xi Jinping in last six years and asked why he has not yet called China "an aggressor". "I implore the prime minister to say that China is an aggressor," Singhvi said.

"What is most worrying and alarming for national security is the fact of donations received by Prime Minister Modi from the Chinese companies in his (seemingly personal) PM-CARES Fund," Singhvi said at a virtual press conference.

"If the Prime Minister of India will compromise his position by accepting donations of hundreds of crores from Chinese companies in the controversial and opaque fund, how will he defend the country against the Chinese aggression? Prime Minister Modi needs to answer," he said.

The PM-CARES Fund was set up in March this year with an objective to deal with any emergency arising due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Since then, some opposition parties have demanded the donations received by the fund be made public.

Singhvi alleged that the BJP has maintained ties China since 2007 and its presidents, starting with Rajnath Singh, Nitin Gadkari and Amit Shah, have had the maximum number of exchanges with China.

With PTI inputs

DIVINE WALK

Devotees take part in a procession on the occasion of the traditional Kharchi Puja festival in Agartal | PTI

Press bodies express concern over Prasar Bharati's threat to news agency

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

THE Indian Women's Press Corps (IWPC) and Press Association expressed their concern over public broadcaster Prasar Bharati's threat to news agency Press Trust of India on that it would review its 'relationship' with the latter.

The press bodies said by describing PTI's 'recent news coverage' as being detrimental to 'national interest', the authorities have failed to appreciate the meaning of a free, objective and unbiased media which is essential to democracy.

The fact is PTI was only doing its professional duty. At a time when the Chinese have intruded into Indian territory, it is the job of the journalist to ask the "other side," in this case a representative of the Chinese government, why this is happening. The interview made all the news - in fact, the Chinese ambassador even conceded, for the first time, that there had been some casualties on the LAC.

By describing PTI's "recent news coverage" as being detrimental to "national interest and undermining India's territorial integrity", it seems the authorities have failed to appreciate the meaning of a free, objective and unbiased media which is the touchstone of a democracy.

The IWPC and Press Association stand with PTI and with all those who believe that a free press is an integral part both of the Constitution as well as the idea of India. #StandWithPTI

Prasar Bharati sent a 'strongly-worded' letter to PTI that its coverage was 'anti-national'.

Cases at 5.28L; UP orders door-to-door survey

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @New Delhi

WITH a record spike of nearly 20,000 cases in a day, India's Covid-19 tally mounted to 5,28,859 on Sunday and the death toll rose to 16,095. Meanwhile, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh announced a door-to-door survey joining several states and UTs who have opted for the exercise in efforts to check the surge.

The Centre noted that recoveries exceeded active Covid cases by over one lakh, stressing that "proactive steps" taken by it along with the states and union territories are showing "encouraging results".

The number of active cases stands at 2,03,051, while 3,09,712 people have recovered and one patient has migrated, according to the updated data.

"Thus, around 58.56 per cent patients have recovered so far," an official said.

"The graded, preemptive and proactive steps taken by the Government of India along with the states and UTs for prevention, containment and management of Covid-19 are showing encouraging results," the Union Health Ministry said in a statement.

A medic during door-to-door Covid-19 testing at a slum in Mumbai | PTI

India saw a surge of 3,38,324 infections till date as lockdown restrictions eased. 19,906 cases were reported on Sunday. This is fifth consecutive day that infections have increased by more than 15,000.

As the country enters the "unlock" phase, PM said, it will have to focus on defeating coronavirus and bolstering the economy.

Something good: How virtual hearings give scope for 'lighter conversations'

KANU SARDA @New Delhi

FROM the day nationwide lockdown was announced, judiciary which was already reeling under lot of pressure because of pendency of cases, resumed work by overcoming all the technological challenges and began virtual hearings.

The Covid-19 pandemic has hit all the countries hard but as far as legal system is concerned, it has shown us a way forward as to how things would be a 'new normal' in future.

Though open hearings are missed badly by lawyers and judges and many of them have expressed the sentiments on more than one occasion but the little lighter off case talks during the virtual hearings are too becoming a routine of sorts.

The virtual hearings have also shown as to how distance becomes immaterial when one has to appear before the court to argue the case.

Senior advocate Harish Salve, who was in London when the lockdown was announced, started appearing in all his cases from his London home as usual.

COUNTRY	E-FILING	VIDEO-CONFERENCING
Australia	Yes, pre-COVID-19	Yes, post-COVID-19
Canada	Yes, pre-COVID-19	Yes, pre-COVID-19
India	Yes, pre-COVID-19	Yes, post-COVID-19
Singapore	Yes, pre-COVID-19	Yes, pre-COVID-19
Sri Lanka	Yes, pre-COVID-19	Yes, post –COVID 19
UK	Yes, pre-COVID-19	Yes, post-COVID-19
USA	Yes, pre-COVID-19	*Yes, post-COVID-19

*(Audio only)

Similarly, some judges prefer to attend online hearings either from their residents office or from the court back office.

Last week, CJI S A Bobde was sitting in his home and was attending the virtual hearing, as the two-week vacation of the Supreme Court has began.

As soon as the hearing began, Solicitor General Tushar Mehta praised the background of CJI's home and said, "We get to see your house today," to which CJI responded, "It's a very old house, but very peaceful." At several occasions background of lawyers, judges houses were discussed before hearings.

During one of the hearings, senior advocate Mukul Rohtagi's farm house and living room was discussed which had lots of artifacts and judges praised his collection. Last week, during a hearing, CJI's dog came running near him as soon as the hearing started and the pet had to be managed by the household staff.

Artists make Lord Ganesh idols ahead of Ganesh festival in Maharashtra | PTI

Lockdown to continue after June 30 in Maharashtra: CM

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Mumbai

MAHARASHTRA Chief Minister Uddhav Thackeray on Sunday said the lockdown will be extended in the state beyond June 30 but more relaxations will be offered gradually. He also said that the Dahi Handi will not be cancelled but the celebration will happen in a different way.

"Will lockdown be lifted after June 30? The clear answer is no," Thackeray tweeted. Earlier, in a televised address, Thackeray ruled out easing the restrictions, adding the state still faces coronavirus threat. The unlock process, dubbed Mission Begin Again is being gradually implemented to put the economy back on track, Thackeray said.

Thackeray said that Dahi Handi is celebrated with much fanfare and with a lot of social gathering every year. "We are here to keep the tradition but the celebration will happen in a different way. The mass gathering of people will not be allowed. The danger of Covid-19 has not yet ended," he said.

KASHMIR
Police arrested a slain Hizbul militant's mother, who had posed with an AK-47 rifle with him, and is also looking for his sister for allegedly recruiting youth into militancy and providing them with arms and logistics

1 FARMER WHO TOOK LOANS ENDS LIFE IN UP

Ahmedabad	37	29	Mumbai	33	26
Bhopal	34	24	Panaji	32	25
Jaipur	39	40	Patna	33	25
Amritsar	37	27	Lucknow	33	26
Chennai	36	30	Port Blair	31	26
Kolkata	33	28	Imphal	28	23
Srinagar	32	18	Chandigarh	36	27

Wily NCP boss leaves MVA allies guessing

Congress fumes as Sharad Pawar lends support to Modi on standoff with China

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

NATIONALIST Congress Party (NCP) president **Sharad Pawar's** statement supporting PM Narendra Modi on India-China border standoff issue has put the Maha Vikas Aghadi alliance in a fix.

NCP is a part of the MVA government in Maharashtra with the Congress and the Shiv Sena. However, the NCP chief's comment is not in line with the Congress stand on this issue. Congress leader Rahul Gandhi has been continuously attacking the Modi government demanding clarity over the Galwan issue.

Pawar has said it was not the time to play politics. "We have to stand with the military. During the 1962 war also, China had grabbed 42,000 sq km of our land," Pawar said indirectly, taking a shot at the Congress leadership. He, however, also clarified that the Uddhav Thackeray government will complete its term.

Maharashtra Congress president Balasaheb Thorat also said that there was no threat to the ruling Maha Vikas Aghadi coalition. "We have got a three-party government. Each party may have a different stand on issues but we all are together for Maharashtra's development," Thorat said.

However, another senior Congress leader said Pawar's statement was inappropriate. "Sharad Pawar was with the Congress in 1962 and his political guru Yashwantrao Chavan was defence minister. The situation was different then. India had just got freedom. It is inappropriate to compare today's condition with '62," he said.

He said Pawar made the statement as he wants to keep his "friend" Modi happy. "We cannot fully trust Pawar given his history but there is no immediate threat to the government," he said.

An NCP leader said that Pawar is a senior leader and did not wish to politicise the issue like Rahul Gandhi.

"Pawar has served as defence minister. He knows what and when to speak? His statement does not mean that the Thackeray government is in trouble. But, if the Congress and the Shiv Sena don't work amicably, then things may be different," he warned.

BJP dist secy shot at in clash with TMC workers

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

After a lull of three months, political violence returned in West Bengal on Sunday as a BJP district secretary was shot at during a clash between supporters of the Trinamool Congress and the saffron party in East Midnapore.

Clashes were reported in last 24 hours at Halisahar and Basirhat over the issue of distribution of relief materials in Cyclone Amphan ravaged areas and BJP's door-to-door campaign for providing copies of the PM's letter to the people.

BJP's East Midnapore district secretary Pabitra Das had a narrow escape as a bullet hit his left hand during the clash in Khejuri, the police said. Das was admitted to a hospital.

Preliminary investigation revealed the clash took place when a group of BJP supporters led by Das protested against the local Trinamool dominated panchayat's alleged decision to sell out cyclone uprooted trees without floating tenders. "When the BJP activists were staging demonstration, the Trinamool supporters reached there and the clash soon broke out," said a police officer.

Several houses were ransacked at Khejuri, the police said.

BJP state president Dilip Ghosh alleged the that Trinamool supporters attacked Das and party workers in front of police personnel. "Das is a proactive worker of our party. He protested against the illegal act of local panchayat members. The police stood as mute spectators when the TMC supporters attacked him," he said.

But, Trinamool MP Sisir Adhikary claimed none of his party supporters was involved in the incident.

Assam flood: Two more dead, toll reaches 43

PRASANTA MAZUMDAR @ Guwahati

TWO more people were killed while over 9.26 lakh others affected as the flood situation turned grim in Assam.

Almost all major rivers, including the Brahmaputra, were in a spate, flowing above danger level in the state.

The deaths were reported from Dhemaji and Udalguri districts. A girl in Guwahati also died in landslide. With these, 43 people so far lost their lives — 20 in flood and 23 in landslides.

According to Assam State Disaster Management Authority, 2,071 villages and localities across 23 of the state's 33 districts are in the grip of the deluge that was triggered by incessant rains for the past few days. The weathermen warned of more rains in the next two-three days.

The floodwater breached river embankments and damaged bridges and roads. Standing crop was affected 68,806 hectares of area. Authorities set up 193 relief camps in 12 districts where 27,308 people were taking refuge.

A herd of elephants take shelter on a highland in a flood affected area of Kaziranga National Park on Sunday | PTI

The Kaziranga National Park, a UNESCO world heritage site, was partially inundated which forced the animals to move towards neighbouring Karbi Anglong hills. The park authorities said all efforts were being made to thwart poaching.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah took stock of the flood and landslide situation from Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal. He assured of all possible assistance from the Centre.

Sonowal said the government was constantly monitoring the situation and added that landslide-prone areas were being identified. The CM informed that all district authorities were instructed to provide relief to the marooned. SDRF and other agencies were engaged in rescue operations, he added.

TMC brass sends notice to 10 leaders

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Kolkata

THE ruling Trinamool Congress issued show cause notice to 10 party leaders, including former textile minister Shayamapada Mukherjee, for their alleged involvement in corruption in distributiion of government relief to the poor during the ongoing lockdown.

CM Mamata Banerjee had recently warning action her party leaders that they would face action if found involved in graft cases.

According to party insiders, since election strategist Prashant Kishor, who was hired by Mamata, found corruption by the party satraps had resulted the party's debacle in the Lok Sabha polls, the CM is all set to come down heavily on her party leaders on corruption issue ahead of the 2021 Assembly election. "Corruption by the party leaders in panchayat and block level proved costly. The BJP made deep inroads in Bengal taking its tally to 18 from 2 in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. This time, our party supremo is very careful about the issue," said a senior Trinamool leader.

Mukherjee is presently the president of Bishnupur block in Bankura district. Patrasayar block president Partha Pratim Sinha and Tapas Sur, a youth wing president, along with Mukherjee were asked to respond to the show-case notice within 48 hours," said Subhasish Batabyal, district president of the Trinamool Congress.

REACHING OUT

Actor Nana Patekar meets Sushant Singh Rajput's father Krishna Kumar Singh at the latter's residence in Patna Sunday | PTI

The family of actor Sushant Singh Rajput's has decided to convert his Rajivnagar-based house into a memorial.

A foundation named after the actor will promote talents in the fields of acting, science and sports, the family said.

Flight-simulators, books and telescope would be among other memorabilia to be displayed at the memorial

'Mining bids not going to Kashmiris'

FAYAZ WANI @ Srinagar

KASHMIR Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) has criticised allocation of contracts to non-locals and described the policy regarding allotment of mining and extraction contracts as alarming and against public interest.

"The bidding for mineral blocks in Kashmir clearly indicates that local stakeholders were sidelined. Use of financial muscle power has totally wiped them out in Srinagar and reports from other districts are equally discouraging," said KCCI secretary general Sheikh Gowher Ali.

In Srinagar alone, non-local contractors have bagged all 10 sand blocks against the bidding amount of ₹5.08 crore.

Ali said the first claim on local resources rightfully belongs to the natives of Kashmir and the J&K government is duty bound to protect the legitimate entitlement of the locals.

"A non-local syndicate appears to have altogether muscled out local stakeholders and is now indulging in aggressive and unfair trade practices," Ali said, adding that KCCI calls for urgent review of mining and extraction policy to address local interests and incorporate protective clauses for stakeholders and consumers.

Chhattisgarh: Profiles of Maoist leadership brought out by police

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

THE Chhattisgarh police in Bastar, under its anti-Maoist propaganda, 'exposed' details of top leaders of the outlawed CPI (Maoist) in an attempt to wean away the rank and file cadres in the state.

A revised list of 34 most wanted Maoists with their images and brief profiles was prepared before being released by the police in Bastar.

In Chhattisgarh, the banned organisation continues to be most active in the conflict zone of Bastar for over four decades now. So far, over 1,800 people have lost their lives in Bastar alone in Maoist violence.

"The top leaders of Maoists are from states like Telangana, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha and other regions who indoctrinate local youths and misguide them," said Sunderraj P, inspector general of police (Bastar zone). "We exposed them to let the lower-rung Maoist cadres from Bastar region realise the 'anti-development and hollow ideology' of the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)."

The list of Maoists cadres would be displayed at various public places like local *haat bazar*, panchayat buildings and areas accessible by all. The initiative aims at persuading local cadres to return to the mainstream.

"The Chhattisgarh Police appeals the local cadres to access benefits from the surrender and rehabilitation policy of the state and live a life of dignity," the IG averred.

The Chhattisgarh Police appeals the local cadres to access benefits from the surrender and rehabilitation policy of the state and live a life of dignity
Sunderraj P,
IG , Bastar zone

Senior Maoist leaders from other states visit Chhattisgarh to recruit local cadres, escalate violence and later after years they surrender only in their states.

The move will create awareness among the inhabitants of Bastar to have knowledge of such Maoist leaders during their movement in the region.

In the next stage the Bastar police will later release the identity of hardcore LWE cadres belonging to the seven Maoist-affected districts of the region. The descriptions will highlight their addresses, position they hold, the rewards they carry and the weapons they posses, the police said.

EXPRESS READ

Dowry case against ex-DGP in Jharkhand

Ranchi: An FIR was lodged against former Jharkhand DGP DK Pandey by his daughter in law accusing him of torturing her physically and mentally for dowry. The FIR was lodged against Pandey, his wife and son Shubhankan at Mahila Thana in Ranchi. Incidentally, Pandey during his tenure as the Jharkhand DGP was often in news for wrong reason.

MP's most wanted man arrested

Bhopal: Businessman Jeetu Soni has finally been arrested by the Indore crime branch cops from Gujarat, after remaining elusive for months. Surprisingly, Jeetu was arrested from his native Amreli district of Gujarat, just four days after his sibling Mahendra Soni was arrested by the same Indore crime branch from the same western state.

Claiming legitimate taxes, says NSCN-IM

GUWAHATI: In a jibe at Nagaland Governor RN Ravi, insurgent group National Socialist Council of Nagalim said it does not extort people but levies "legitimate taxes".

Recently, in a hard-hitting letter to Nagaland Chief Minister Neiphiu Rio, Ravi had said that unrestrained depredations by organised armed gangs, brazenly running their so-called "governments" and challenging the legitimacy of the state government without any resistance, created a crisis of confidence in the system.

Reacting to this statement, the NSCN-IM, which entered into a ceasefire agreement in 1997 with the Centre, shifted the blame on the "offshoots of pseudo-nationalists". The outfit said it was a "recognised and legitimate national organisation of the Naga people and not a gang."

"What has complicated the situation as seen today is the madness of extortions being carried out by some groups in the guise of freedom fighters. The NSCN-IM did not and does not commit extortion at any point of time but levies legitimate taxes on the people," the outfit said in a statement.

Criticising Ravi, it said that an interlocutor needs to prove himself as someone who stands committed to solve the longest political conflict in the South-East Asia. *ENS*

Power boost for Balasaheb Thorat

Balasaheb Thorat, PCC chief and Revenue Minister, is now the most powerful Congresssman in Maharashtra. Thorat was recently given the authority to appoint district presidents by Congress boss Sonia Gandhi. This is the first time the PCC chief has been given such power. Earlier, approval was needed from the national president. However, Thorat seems to enjoy the trust of the Gandhis. Thorat recently appointed 11 district presidents without approval from the central leadership. However, Thorat's power rise has shocked many in the state Congress and also the second rung leadership in Delhi.

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MUMBAI DIARY

Sharad Pawar 'takes charge' in Pune

NCP chief Sharad Pawar seems to be taking charge of the measures against Covid-19 in his home district Pune. The 80-year-old was in Pune and attended a series of meeting with nephew and deputy chief minister Ajit Pawar. The NCP chief urged officials to regularly review the situation in containment zones and to also ensure private hospitals do not overcharge patients. He also told the officials to take measures to restart the economy. He said the administration should reach out to more people. Pawar has also been meeting people to understand their issues. Earlier, he was camped at his Silver Oak residence but now he has been stepping out to meet the constituents. He also toured the Konkan region which was affected by the NISARG cyclone.

Marathi officer misses out in CS race

Maharashtra CM Uddhav Thackeray recently appointed Sanjay Kumar, a 1985 batch IAS officer, as the new state chief secretary. The outgoing CS Ajoy Mehta will be the principal advisor to the chief minister. Kumar's appointment means that Sitaram Kunte, another 1985 IAS batch officer, missed out. Kunte was the only Marathi officer in fray for the post of chief secretary. The former BMC chief was considered the front runner in the race. However, the Maha Vikas Aghadi government seemed to have followed the seniority order and appointed Kumar- the more senior officer - as chief secretary.

Mantralaya staff being extra-cautious

While Mantralaya - the Maharashtra state secretariat office - has begun work with 10 per cent staff, its officers are being extra cautious in meeting anyone. They are even hesitant to meet the scribes who are visiting the offices for news stories. So far, three ministers and several top officers have been infected with Covid-19. This has put the staff on defence. Meanwhile, the numbers of cases and deaths continue to rise in the state and particularly in Mumbai.

4 July
is when England will reopen pubs, restaurants, hairdressers, museums and cinemas

GLOBAL WEATHER

Beijing	33	24 SNY	Los Angeles	25	15 SNY
Colombo	31	26 TDS	Melbourne	12	8 LR
Doha	40	29 SNY	Moscow	23	12 SNY
Dubai	38	27 SNY	New York	30	21 LC
Houston	33	23 TDS	Singapore	31	25 TDS
Istanbul	26	19 TDS	Toronto	29	19 LC
London	24	13 SNY	Washington DC	32	22 TDS

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

BLANTYRE

Oppn wins historic rerun of Malawi's prez vote

The opposition has won Malawi's historic rerun of the presidential election, the first time a court-overturned vote in Africa has led to the defeat of an incumbent leader. Lazarus Chakwera's victory over President Peter Mutharika (pictured) late Saturday was a result of months of street protests and of a unanimous decision by the Constitutional Court.

JERUSALEM

Israel orders evangelical TV channel off air

Israel's media watchdog said Sunday that it had withdrawn the broadcast licence from US-based evangelical network GOD TV, accusing it of seeking to target Jews with Christian content. International Christian network's GOD TV launched its Shelanu (Hebrew for "ours") channel at the end of April, describing it as catering to Christians.

FRANKFURT

Critics' ire turns on auditor EY after Wirecard collapse

Global audit giant EY is facing growing questions and threats of legal action over its role in the bankruptcy of German payments processor Wirecard after signing off on the accounts for years. Some plaintiffs have already launched legal cases against EY after Wirecard's spectacular bankruptcy last week. Wirecard filed for insolvency Thursday.

REYKJAVIK

Iceland prez re-elected with 92% of vote

Iceland's President Gudni Johannesson has been re-elected with a whopping 92 percent of the vote, according to final results released on Sunday. The former history professor won his second four-year term in the largely symbolic position in Saturday's vote, the second election held by a European country after coronavirus lockdowns were lifted.

BEIJING

China puts 500K people under lockdown

China imposed a strict lockdown on nearly half a million people in a province surrounding the capital to contain a fresh coronavirus cluster on Sunday, as authorities warned the outbreak was still "severe and complicated." After China largely brought the virus under control, hundreds have been infected in Beijing and cases have emerged in Hebei province in recent weeks.

SACRAMENTO

California's Golden State Killer set to plead guilty

Forty years after a suburban rapist terrorised California in what cops later realised were a series of linked assaults and slayings, a 74-year-old former police officer is expected to plead guilty Monday to being the elusive Golden State Killer. The deal will spare Joseph James DeAngelo Jr. any chance of the death penalty for 13 murders and 13 kidnapping-related charges.

NEW YORK

No proof of child-abuse surge in lockdown: Experts

When the pandemic took hold across the US in mid-March, forcing many children to be locked down in households buffeted by job losses and other forms of stress, many experts warned of a likely surge of child abuse. But some of the them, including Dr. Lori Frasier of Hershey Medical Center, say they have seen no evidence of a marked increase.

Belt & Road in trouble as Covid-hit economies struggle to repay debts

Projects in Asia & Africa stall; Chinese banks continue to reduce lending; Xi in political bind

The 2017 launch of the Chinese-funded railway linking Mombasa to Nairobi | AFP

BEIJING

THE majority of the projects under China's ambitious multi-billion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) are either adversely or partially affected by the coronavirus pandemic, according to a Chinese official.

Wang Xiaolong, director-general of the foreign ministry's international economic affairs department, said a fifth of the projects were "seriously affected" and about 40% of the projects were "adversely affected", and a further 30-40 per cent were "somewhat affected", as per South China Morning Post.

The BRI was launched by Chinese President Xi Jinping when he came to power in 2013. The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is the flagship project of the BRI.

In Nigeria, a $1.5 billion rail project is facing delays because of coronavirus disruptions, while many Chinese funded projects in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Algeria and Egypt have been put on hold or may be delayed as the countries fight to control the spread of Covid-19, it said.

Many of the countries that took billions of dollars in loans from China to build mega projects 'including motorways, ports, dams and railways ' are knocking on Beijing's door, asking for debt repayment freezes or some debt cancellations.

Earlier, President Xi promised African countries to write off all their interest-free loans due this year, the Post said. Further, China's policy banks, including China Exim Bank and China Development Bank, which fund most of the BRI projects, are now more cautious in their lending.

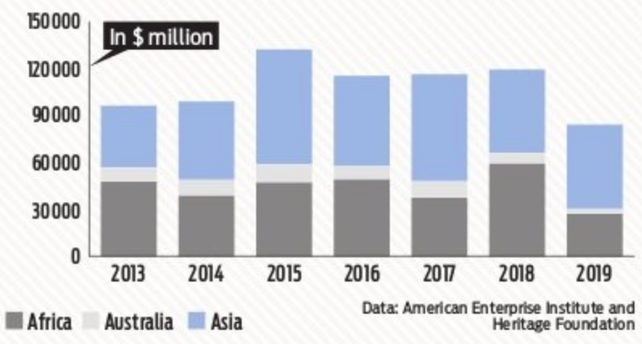
Even before Covid-19, China's policy banks were reducing new BRI loans. The lenders have cut funding to energy projects to the lowest level in more than a decade last year.

James Crabtree, associate professor in practice at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy in Singapore, said BRI's glory days might be over. "Facing a crunching post-pandemic slowdown, China has far less money to splash out on expensive infrastructure in Africa and elsewhere," Crabtree said.

He said President Xi faces political pressure on two fronts: from poor nations wanting loans cancelled and from his citizens who did not want the money sent abroad. *PTI*

Tracking China's deal-making

Chinese foreign investments and construction contracts in Africa, Asia and Australia (includes BRI and non-BRI projects)



Data: American Enterprise Institute and Heritage Foundation

ASIA MATTERS

MYANMAR

UN warns of intensified fighting in Rakhine

The United Nations called for "urgent measures to spare civilians" in Myanmar's conflict-wracked northwest on Sunday, saying fighting has intensified between the army and insurgents. The military has been battling the Arakan Army (AA) -- a rebel group seeking more autonomy for ethnic Rakhine Buddhists -- in Myanmar's Rakhine and Chin states since January last year. Scores of civilians have been killed in the area and tens of thousands displaced. The two sides have traded allegations of abuse.

PAKISTAN

Polls in Gilgit-Baltistan

Pakistan will hold general elections in Gilgit-Baltistan on August 18, the government has announced after the country's top court allowed holding of polls in the region. The GB Election Commission will hold the polls in 24 constituencies.

BANGLADESH

Northern regions brace for monsoon floods

With the monsoon setting in and waters from India rushing downstream, Bangladesh is facing a serious threat of floods that could cause extensive damage to farmlands across the delta nation's vast northern regions, officials said Sunday. The country's Flood Forecasting and Warning Center said water levels in many rivers were continuing to rise, posing threats to flood protection embankments that could burst, potentially affecting lakhs of people in more than 20 districts.

You can't always get what you want: Rolling Stones tell Donald Trump

LONDON

BRITISH rock legends The Rolling Stones have threatened legal action against Donald Trump for the US president's use of their song *You Can't Always Get What You Want* at campaign rallies.

The band has appointed performing rights organisation BMI to try to stop him using the song, according to a statement given to US website, Deadline, overnight Saturday.

"The BMI have notified the Trump campaign on behalf of the Stones that the unauthorised use of their songs will constitute a breach of its licensing agreement," read the statement, which was retweeted by the Rolling Stones official Twitter account.

"If Donald Trump disregards the exclusion and persists then he would face a lawsuit for breaking the embargo and playing music that has not been licensed."

The letter is the latest in a campaign to stop Trump using the song at rallies which dates back to 2016.

It was initially played at Republican party primaries.

The BMI added that it has not yet received any response from lawyers acting for Trump.

Earlier this month, the family of rock musician Tom Petty issued a cease and desist letter over Trump's use of "I Won't Back Down" at a rally in Tulsa on June 20. *AFP*

A file photo of Mick Jagger, Charlie Watts, Keith Richards and Ron Wood | AP

Trump tweets video of man yelling 'white power'

US President Donald Trump shared a video of a stand-off between anti-Trump protesters and his supporters in which a man chants "white power" -- before deleting it amid an outcry. "Thank you to the great people of The Villages," Trump tweeted above the video clip. The footage apparently shot in a Florida retirement community shows a man driving a golf-cart bearing "Trump 2020" and "America First" signs, being heckled by a roadside protester chanting "racist." As they yell at each other, the driver repeatedly mouths the words "white power" with a raised fist. "White power! There you go, white power. Did you hear that?" the protester yells back at him.

Assa Traore emerges as key anti-racism activist

Until the death of her brother Adama in French police custody four years ago, Assa Traore had never been someone who campaigned for a cause. Today, the 35-year-old mother of three is an international figure in the fight against police violence and racism, thrust into the heart of the debate by the death in Minneapolis last month of George Floyd. And on Sunday, Assa Traore, dubbed the French Angela Davis, will receive a BET award, a prize awarded by a US television channel to African-American or minority figures.

Covid-19 cases surpass 1 crore globally

Colombian with Covid gives birth in coma

Diana Angola was fighting for her own life when she gave birth to son Jefferson. The 36-year-old had been put into a coma having contracted the novel coronavirus, which left her lungs barely able cope. Doctors performed a caesarian section due to the state of her lungs and Jefferson was born at least 14 weeks prematurely. The case generated "a lot of shock," Paula Velasquez, a doctor specializing in internal medicine at the Versalles clinic in city of Cali, said. "We knew that there were few reported cases of survival in a context as severe as our patient," said Velasquez. Angola, who also has a daughter, was taken to hospital on May 15 with a terrible fever. Three days later she was put into an induced coma and kept that way until surgery. Because of her pregnancy, she was kept sitting up at a 45 degree angle, when those suffering from pneumonia are normally laid down flat to help their breathing. Jefferson, though premature, was born without the coronavirus -- but doctors said he struggled to breathe, and that they had to revive him. "We had to go through the whole procedure of a critical patient," pediatrician Edwin Olivo, who was one of the specialists involved in the birth, said. But, he added, though the baby remains in an incubator he quickly started putting on weight and breathing more easily. Now recovered from the virus, Angola is desperate to be discharged with her son.

PARIS

THE total number of coronavirus cases has topped 1 crore globally, according to an AFP tally on Sunday, as the pandemic surges particularly in the United States and Latin America.

At least 1,00,03,942 infections, including 4,98,779 deaths, have been registered around the world, according to a count at 0930 GMT based.

The rate of infections worldwide has doubled since May 21, with one million new cases recorded in just the last six days.

In Latin America alone, more than 4,00,000 new cases were registered in the past week

The tallies, using data collected by AFP from national authorities and information from the World Health Organization (WHO), probably reflect only a fraction of the actual number of infections.

Many countries are testing only symptomatic or the most serious cases and some do not have the capacity to carry out widescale testing.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the number of people infected in the United States is 10 times the official figures, or more than 2 crore people.

The disease is gaining ground in 30 of the 50 states, mainly the biggest and most populous in the south and west such as California, Texas and Florida.

In Latin America and the Caribbean the virus is spreading the most rapidly. Between June 21 and 27 the region registered 4,08,401 new cases, compared with 2,53,624 in the US and Canada and 121,824 in Europe.

Demonstrators hold signs as they protest the lockdown and masks in California | AP

NATIONS WITH MOST INFECTIONS

COUNTRY	TOTAL CASES	RECOVERED	DEATHS	TOTAL TESTS
USA	26,11,600	1,081,551	1,28,211	3,20,12,577
Brazil	13,19,274	7,15,905	57,149	29,25,935
Russia	6,34,437	3,99,087	9,073	1,90,44,954
UK	3,11,151	N/A	43,550	91,95,132

In total, Latin America has 2,432,558 infections with 110,695 deaths.

Brazil is the worst affected with over 13,19,000 cases -- 2,46,088 in the last seven days, followed by Peru (a total of 2,75,989 with 24,651 new in the last week), Chile (2,67,766 total, 31,018 new), Mexico (2,12,802 total, 37,600 new) and Colombia (88,592 total, 22,959 new).

Asia is also facing a surge in cases, particularly in India.

In Europe, the number of cases recorded daily has stabilised over the past month at fewer than 20,000, but the World Health Organization has warned of a "significant resurgence" on the continent.

'Window is closing'

American Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar is stressing that 'the window is closing' for the US to take action to effectively curb the coronavirus.

Azar pointed to a recent spike in infections, particularly in the South. He says people have 'to act responsibly' by social distancing and wearing face masks especially 'in these hot zones.'

Azar argued that the US is in a better position than two months ago as it is conducting more testing and has therapeutics available to treat the Covid-19 disease. *Agencies*

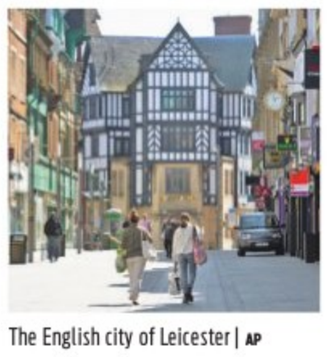
Town with big India-origin population may be 1st to face UK's local lockdown

LONDON

THE UK government on Sunday said it is planning to impose localised lockdowns in some regions showing a spike in coronavirus infections, as latest figures showed that Indian-origin people remain in the category of those hardest hit from the deadly virus among Britain's ethnic minorities.

Home Secretary Priti Patel confirmed as "correct" the reports of the first such local lockdown for Leicester, a region in eastern England with a large Indian-origin population.

"We have seen flare-ups across the country already, just in the last three or four weeks in particular. There will be support going into Leicester," said Patel.



The English city of Leicester | AP

"With local flare-ups it is right we have a localised solution in terms of infection control, social distancing, testing and many of the tools actually within the Public Health England space that will come together to control the virus and to stop the spread so we can get on top of the infection," she said.

The latest NHS England statistics revealed that 763 people identifying with Indian heritage have died so far in the pandemic. This continues to reflect three per cent of the total deaths officially recorded by the National Health Service (NHS) from coronavirus, first reported in April at the peak of the pandemic. *AP*

TODAY'S STOCK PICK

Current Price ₹306.9

Target Price ₹370

Gujarat Gas: The growth in FY20 is completely attributable to Morbi, where the overnight shift to gas from dirtier fuel led to the huge demand boost. We believe that industrial volumes would be a clear winner for long-term growth. With increasing number of CNG stations and focus on reducing vehicular pollution, penetration in the CNG segment is expected to increase.

– Motilal Oswal Financial Services Ltd

Disclaimer: The views and recommendations made above are that of the individual analyst or broking company, and not that of **TNIE.**

EXPRESS READ

PAYMENTS

₹1,500 CR IN SALARIES PROCESSED: PAYTM

Paytm on Sunday said Paytm Payouts has processed over ₹1,500 crore in salaries and other benefits for MSMEs. Paytm Payouts is a digital money transfer service for businesses. "During this ongoing lockdown, over 5,000 companies have used Paytm Payouts to pay salaries and food allowances to employees, incentives and rewards to housekeeping, etc," Paytm Payouts said in a statement.

HIGH DEBT

DISCOMS' OUTSTANDING DUES RISE 63% IN APR

Power producers' total outstanding dues owed by distribution firms rose nearly 63 per cent to ₹1.23 lakh crore in April 2020 over the same month previous year, reflecting stress in the sector. Distribution companies (discoms) owed a total of ₹75,642 crore to power generation firms in April 2019. In April 2020, the total overdue amount stood at ₹1,08,487 crore as against ₹58,200 crore.

BUSTING THE MYTH OF SHORT-TERM INVESTMENT

There is no such thing as fast money. The only way you can make any real money is by beating inflation year after year.

TAPAS RANJAN

RAJAS KELKAR

THE lockdown over the past three months due to the Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted the way of life. As such, it has changed everything that you do. From the way you run your household to the way you manage your work life and personal relationships.

Global agencies like the International Monetary Fund have warned of a synchronised deep downturn in 2020 for both advanced and emerging market economies. It is estimated that over 95 per cent of the economies would have a negative per capita income growth in 2020. That means individuals would make far lesser money than before.

"With activity in labour in terms of sectors like tourism and hospitality expected to remain subdued, a full recovery in the labour market may take a while, worsening inequality and raising poverty levels," Gita Gopinath, the chief economist at the IMF said last week.

Your money affairs are affected significantly. Your finances deserve your attention in the light of a subdued outlook for your income.

The 'Short-term' investments mythology

You need to do away with the concept of short-term investments. It is the most misused term that associates investing with 'fast money'. There is no such thing as fast money. The only way you can make any real money is by beating inflation year after year by a margin. That is possible only by investing regularly in businesses through equity directly or through index funds or mutual funds. You have to give your money adequate time to bear fruits. Investing is all about letting your money grow by staying put. No matter the market cycles. In the short-term, you can only protect your capital as they do not yield high returns. Any short-term investment return would typically hover around interest rates in the economy. The best short-term investment may offer a return that just about makes up for the inflation rate.

On top of that, taxation is higher if you withdraw your money. So, putting money in fixed deposits of banks and well-known companies is just protecting your money and not investing. So is keeping it in liquid and debt funds. Going forward, you have to tell yourself that putting money in fixed income assets is protecting it and not investing. There is no such thing as a 'short-term' investment. If you invest, it is for a long haul.

Your priority right now has to be on saving more and spending less. A sharp cut in expenditure is needed if you have any doubts about your future income. A surplus each month is necessary to protect your future wealth.

For the long-term

If you are mentally prepared to understand the new dynamics of the investment world, then you may want to look out for options for some real investing.

If you are financially aware, you may want to use the time during the lockdown and going forward to learn more about financial markets and multiple real investment options in front of you. Businesses rely on the economic growth of a country. They plan their business expansion based on their expectation of demand for goods and services.

In the light of a weak economic growth outlook in the next year, the sentiment for business expansion is likely to be subdued. However, financial markets have discounted the year 2020. The trend, thus far, indicates that equity markets are expecting a V-shaped recovery in the world economy. We have seen benchmark indices in India like the BSE S&P Sensex, and the NSE Nifty move from record highs to significant lows in March 2020. They have regained over 50 per cent of the lost ground.

The anticipation is of a quick uptick in demand for goods and services in the years beyond 2020. Effectively, today's prices are reflecting profits that businesses would make in 2021 and 2022. You may want to tread with caution. It is always a good idea to seek professional help. Discussing investment prospects with someone who is an expert or reading up can help you zero in on investment ideas.

For those who are not into finance and not too keen to learn more, you can put money into index funds through a systematic investment plan. It is the most efficient and low-cost option for equity investing. You can create real wealth through regular index investing. American households did that in the 70s. You can do that over the next couple of decades.

Use the lockdown to research long-term bets

If you are financially aware, you may want to use the time during the lockdown to learn more about financial markets and multiple real investment options available to you currently.

It is always a good idea to seek professional help. Discussing investment prospects with someone who is an expert or reading up can help you zero in on investment ideas.

IRDAI makes Covid-19 insurance coverage mandatory from July 10

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @ New Delhi

WITH the rising number of COVID-19 cases, the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDAI) has issued guidelines for a standard Covid-19 health policy and asked the health insurance companies to mandatorily offer the same from July 10.

According to the IRDAI, insurance companies can have two kind of policies, a regular indemnity policy covering the disease with the tenure ranging from 3.5 months to 9.5 months called Corona Kavach and one which is an optional standard benefit cover which pays out a fixed amount, called Corona Rakshak.

What will it cover?

The Corona Kavach plan will provide hospitalisation expenses up to the sum insured amount chosen by the policyholder for the treatment of COVID-19 on positive diagnosis in a government authorised diagnostic centre, including the Intensive Care Unit expense, intensive Cardiac Care Unit (ICCU) expenses, medicines and drugs costs, ambulance expenses upto ₹2,000.

For those opting for Home Care Treatment, this will cover the costs of treatment incurred by the policyholder on availing treatment at home for a maximum of 14 days provided that the home treatment is advised by a medical practitioner and there is a continuous active line of treatment with monitoring of the health status by a medical practitioner for each day through its duration. It will cover diagnostic charge, nursing charge, cost of pulse oximeter, oxygen cylinder and nebulizer.

The policy will cover 15 days of pre-hospitalisation and 30 days of post-hospitalisation Medical Expenses. The IRDAI has also provided for covering Ayush Treatments under the scheme.

IRDAI has clarified that the standard Covid-19 health policy shall include the cost of treatment for any co-morbid condition including pre-existing co-morbid conditions along with the treatment for Covid-19.

Coverage provided under Corona Rakshak plan

IRDAI guidelines says that this policy will offer payment of 0.5 per cent of sum insured per day for each 24 hours of continuous hospitalisation. The benefit shall be payable for a maximum up to 15 days during a policy period in respect of every insured person.

IRDAI has capped the minimum sum insured under COVID Standard Health Policy at ₹50 thousand and maximum sum assured at ₹5 lakh.

The regulator has asked insurance companies to ensure that the premium is kept affordable. There is also a 5 per cent discount for healthcare workers.

EQUITY TALK

Are ULIPs the right choice?

ASHOK KUMAR

IF one goes purely by the content from a search engine's results, one would carry the notion that Unit Linked Insurance Plans (ULIPs) offered by insurance companies are costlier and lack the same transparency as mutual funds, besides generating much lower returns after 5 years, which is the lowest installment premium paying term for a ULIP investor.

Now, if one shifted the needle from 5 to 10 or 12 years, much of the above criticism stands weakened.

To understand a financial product one must determine its optimal holding period first, and then compare costs. At the end of a 10 to 12 year period, the cost of a ULIP which may seem costlier at the end of a 5-year period due to front loading of costs as against mutual funds that charge evenly throughout the holding tenure, will appear to be similar.

In certain cases, it may even seem less expensive since ULIP costs start dipping during the second half of a dozen-year tenure.

The myth around cost and transparency is thus no longer an entirely fair one. As for returns, take a good look at the numbers and decide whether a ULIP's net returns are better at the end of a 10 to 12 year term compared to that of a dynamic asset allocation mutual fund.

So, does this mean ULIPs are superior to mutual funds as an investment vehicle?

The simple answer is yes and no. It depends on whether one prefers apples or oranges, as that is the nature of the comparative studies that one reads on many financial websites. The simpler way to look at it is to pick the investment mode based on the appropriateness of a product to the temperament of an investor.

Allow me to cite an example to buttress my point.

A successful businessman and Ultra HNI investor, who is my client now, told me how, just before the stock market rallied in 2013, he got fed up of waiting for good returns from the mutual funds he invested in after just 15 months and sold all of them. With the not so inconsiderable proceeds, he purchased an exotic painting on the advice of his then 'wealth manager' from an MNC private bank. He was assured that the artist was the next MF Hussain and that in 25 years he would earn an obscene return from this investment. Now that is something only time will tell, but my hunch is that 7 years down the line, there has been no significant appreciation in either the value of the painting or the standing of the artist. Worse still, his wife, a far more astute investor, hated the painting and he now pays handsome locker rent to his bank for hosting the 'masterpiece'. So, would he have been better off, if notwithstanding his impulsive temperament, he held a less liquid ULIP investment in 2013?

More on this topic, in the next column.

FINANCIAL ADVICE

ASHOK KUMAR
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TDS FOR FY21

Based on employees' declaration and exemptions notified, employers can now go for Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and pay salary under the alternative tax regime.

CBDT notifies exemptions under new I-T mechanism

CONTINUED FROM P1

EARLIER in February, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced in her Budget speech that an optional system with significantly lower income tax rates would be provided if taxpayers forgo available deductions and exemptions.

The tax department has also made it clear that employees can opt for a lower tax regime before filing their returns. Based on the declaration and exemptions notified, employers can now go for Tax Deducted at Source (TDS) and accordingly pay salary under the alternative tax regime. The CBDT has also extended the time for filing of original as well as revised income-tax returns for the FY18-19 (AY 2019-20) to July 31, 2020. The due date for filing returns for FY 2019-20 (AY 2020-21) has been extended to November 30, 2020.

Under the new I-T scheme, annual income up to ₹2.5 lakh is exempt from all tax. Those individuals earning between ₹2.5 lakh and ₹5 lakh will pay 5 per cent. Incomes between ₹5-7.5 lakh will be taxed at 10 per cent, and those between ₹7.5-10 lakh at 15 per cent. Those earning between ₹10 lakh and ₹12.5 lakh will pay 20 per cent, while those between ₹12.5-15 lakh will pay at the rate of 25 per cent. Income above ₹15 lakh will be taxed at 30 per cent.

Rural-focused insurance products multiply, but awareness remains low

BINITA JAISWAL @ Chennai

THE Covid-19 pandemic has brought to fore the importance of insurance and financial protection. Though the focus of the insurance sector in India has always been primarily urban-oriented, this time of change is pushing companies to encash the opportunity present in the heavily under-penetrated rural market.

Bima Mandi, an insurance tech startup, has chalked out an ambitious roadmap to leverage the potential that financial services in the rural market hold.

According to Prashant Karulkar, founder of Bima Mandi, a large variety of insurance products that cater to the needs of farmers at affordable rates are available in the market. But due to a general lack of awareness, the rural populace has been unable to gain the benefits of these products, he pointed out.

For instance, micro-insurance products tailored for the farmers community—such as crop insurance, health Insurance, rural, personal, accident, irrigation, animal cart, aquaculture, agri-allied and cattle insurance—are available in the market.

Even niche products such as insurance covers for snake bites, livestock welfare, failed wells, damage caused by thunderstorms, health issues, funerals and even covering the birth of twins is are available, he says.

The insurance premium amount for these products start from a minimum of as low as ₹42 per annum. Increasing awareness about the products is the key to expanding their use, Karulkar noted, which is something his start-up does through products like Bima Paathshala.

"In each state, we have assigned the state, district and tehsil incharge who will lead the awareness campaign. The teams will educate and explain the need of insurance and how it can help assist in creating a more self-reliant and sustainable rural ecosystem at the grassroots level, "said Karulkar. Insurance outreach can be enhanced with the support of the governments too, he added.

The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) pegs the overall insurance cover levels for the country at 0.8 per cent or ₹1.89 lakh crore, while for rural areas, the biggest share is accounted for by crop insurance, which is pegged at ₹32,000 crore.

Karulkar also said that their interactions would be conducted mainly in regional languages in an effort to win the confidence of the people.

LITTLE DROPS

Lessons a coin jar can teach about financial discipline

SUNITHA NATTI @ Hyderabad

WHAT do you do with the loose change in your pocket? Most of us may think or do nothing about it, but believe it or not, spare coins have enough fire power that can let you indulge in some of life's luxuries from time to time.

If you think that tossing coins in a piggy bank is best suited for kids but a wasteful activity for adults, think again.

Because, loose change is equally valuable and when accumulated little by little, it's this small sum that snowballs into hundreds or thousands of rupees that lets you pay for things without burning your wallet. Importantly, saving small change makes you principled, rekindles financial discipline, promotes household budgeting and reinforces the habit of saving.

Why is it important for adults? One of the crucial tenets of financial discipline is frugal spending.

It also means, savers will have to forego discretionary spend more often they would imagine or desire. But, dutifully saving loose coins can pay for a few luxuries such as an expensive designer handbag, or indulge in a guilt-free body massage, or have that sinful Michelin-star lunch, or buy that bottle of imported wine without your monthly expenses or credit card bills going out of hand. When done with force, such small change can even let you buy those plane tickets for a dream vacation.

THE UTILITY OF COIN JARS

The beauty of these adult piggy banks, financial advisers say, is that the daily deposits in the jar are too small and you already have the coins with you without much purpose.

The beauty of these adult piggy banks, financial advisers say, is that the daily deposits in the jar are too small and you already have the coins with you without much purpose. Moreover, it's an easy way to save.

But how do you go about it? There are several ways. One obvious method is to aimlessly accumulate change whenever they are found in spare. Two, one can consciously put aside a fixed sum with an objective in mind (say buying something worth ₹5,000 or more). Accordingly, daily amounts can be assigned as small as ₹5 or ₹10, but are added everyday and at the end of the year, you'd be left with substantial sum that can be spent without regrets.

Another fun way is to keep adding change equivalent to the number of days. For instance, if you add ₹1 or ₹5 on day one, each passing day should see multiples there of.

Though at first, the exercise may make you feel thrifty or appear as a trivial thing to do, but in the end you'll arrive at the inevitable conclusion that every cent counts.

City to give Liverpool guard of honour

Manchester City will form a guard of honour for new English Premier League champion Liverpool when they meet next Thursday, City manager **Pep Guardiola** said. Liverpool took the title City have owned for the last two years this week. "We are going to do the guard of honour, of course," Guardiola said.

Camp uncertain, but friends to the rescue

Doubles star Satwik making most of neighbourhood resources in hometown Amalapuram

ANMOL GURUNG @ Chennai

THE Badminton Association of India (BAI) is planning a camp for top shuttlers from July 1. But there's uncertainty looming, considering that the federation is yet to get approval from the Telangana government. There are talks that Hyderabad will be under a 15-day lockdown from July 1.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy is one shuttler who has doubts regarding the resumption of training. The doubles ace — who along with Chirag Shetty made the world take notice with some exceptional displays in 2019 — is currently at his hometown in Amalapuram in Andhra.

"A month back, one of my coaches had called asking me to stay prepared to come back. I had told my coach it would be difficult for me. My parents are worried. Even if facilities open, it will only be for play. The coach said they'll only open the court for just one or two hours for a limited number of people," he revealed.

BAI had earlier planned to begin training for the likes of Satwik from June 1, but that could not materialise after the national governing body failed to get go-ahead from the state government.

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and partner Chirag Shetty are 10th in Race to Tokyo

"I have to stay outside (not at Gopichand Academy). That is one major concern for my parents. They said they would talk to Gopi sir (Pullela Gopichand) and after that, they said the camp will be held later."

The soaring number of coronavirus cases is not helping matters. Telangana reported 1,087 cases on Saturday, its highest for a single day. "If everything is fine, I should go. Chirag's chances of coming looks unlikely for now. Maybe, I'll go alone if the situation arises," Satwik said, adding that he'll take the final call on joining camp after consulting Gopichand.

> **We have all the academy players nearby. I have my ex-partner Krishna (Prasad Garaga). Around five to six people are there. Weekly once or twice we make arrangements at someone's place and practise... This week we are planning to hold it in my hometown. Let's see how it goes.**
>
> Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, doubles specialist

It goes without saying it has been a difficult period for everyone including Satwik. But despite the situation, the youngster is at peace in familiar surroundings at home. The 2018 Commonwealth Games silver medallist has been honing his skills and he has good company too — former partner Krishna Prasad Garaga. "I'm doing well here. We have all the academy players nearby. I have my ex-partner Krishna," the 19-year-old revealed.

"Around five to six people are there. Weekly once or twice we make arrangements at someone's place and practise. It has been a good experience. This week we are planning to hold it in my hometown. Let's see how it goes."

Before the sport came to standstill, Satwik and Chirag — who's currently in Mumbai — had strung consistent performances to maintain their ranking and get closer to Tokyo Olympics. They were ranked 10th in Race to Tokyo before the pandemic forced the BWF to freeze rankings. In the company of friends, Satwik is looking to maintain rhythm. "I have been trying to maintain things that I have learnt in the last few years and also ensure that I stay in shape."

For that, he has been dedicating five hours every day (sessions in the morning and evening). Morning activities involve on-court practice while evenings are mostly spent on gym training. "I have some equipment close to my house. My trainer has given me certain programmes. I have been following that."

Without boat, sailor left visualising

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Chennai

ON the evening of March 7, KC Ganapathy had just finished training in the calm waters of Abu Dhabi and eased his racing equipment — a 49er class boat — off the water. Varun Thakkar, his racing partner, and he were eight days away from one of their more crucial events, an Olympic qualifier.

Minutes after their training session, the local government got in touch with the organisers to put everything into lockdown. "We were just asked to leave by that night actually," Ganapathy said. It's been more than 100 days (115 to be exact) since then. "I still remember it vividly because that was the last time I practised with my boat."

KC Ganapathy hasn't sailed for 100-plus days

Because of the pandemic, Ganapathy and Thakkar's race equipment is still in Abu Dhabi. After he got back to Chennai, he went back to Mumbai — where the training base is located — for a few days. As the country went into lockdown, the 2018 Asian Games bronze medal winner got back to the city for what he thought would be a small break. Little did he know that he would still be in Chennai three months later.

That, however, is just one part of the problem for the 24-year-old. Even as athletes of almost every other discipline have gotten reacquainted with their craft, the Chennai sailor has been reduced to writing letters to the transportation company responsible for bringing his training equipment, including a fully functional 49er boat, from Mumbai to Chennai.

"Because our base shifted to Mumbai last year, all my equipment is there. Thanks to the lockdown, I have not been able to bring it back. You can probably say it's not really an essential equipment so I am not sure if they will allow me to bring it here. Also, Tamil Nadu's borders are closed. I have constantly been writing to the transportation company about the difficulty in bringing the equipment here."

If he had his boat, he could have had a small window of opportunity to train at Palavakkam beach. Sans, he has been left to training with basic gym apparatus at home apart from visualisation techniques. "All I can do now is lift some weights apart from visualise. That's what Varun also does because both of us practise on the same boat. Visualisation includes me steering the boat (he is the helm), with Varun being the crew." He's also opted to familiarise himself with sailing literature.

Has he considered the prospect of going to Mumbai to restart training? "Why will I needlessly risk my health! There is no point. I am going to be here for the time being." Looking at the way coronavirus curve is heading, he could be here for a while.

Target September on, athletes hit first phase

INDRANEEL DAS @ Chennai

ATHLETES at the Sports Authority of India (SAI) centres in Patiala, Bengaluru and Ooty (Wellington) continue to train in earnest. Despite the de-recognition of National Sports Federations by the sports ministry, athletics coaching camps at these centres are on sans access to the gym. The Athletics Federation of India (AFI) is satisfied with the progress athletes are making and starting the season in September is still the target.

The sports minister in a recent meeting with federations said that some kind of competition, leagues if they are possible, should begin by August. The AFI, however, had already chalked out its calendar. As per plans, it will begin with the Indian Grand Prix in Patiala (Sep 12) followed by Open Nationals in Chennai (Sep 20 to 25).

Though the Tamil Nadu Athletics Association feels it would be impossible to host the event due to rising Covid-19 cases in the city, the AFI is yet to change the venue. The logic is, it is still some time away. By then, AFI officials hope, some kind of normalcy would return.

"We have not thought of changing the venue yet," said a top AFI official. "We are keeping a close watch on developments we hope things will improve. We will have protocols in place before that." Whether athletes need to reach the venue in advance for 14 days of quarantine, the AFI is yet to decide, admitting that logistics would be a huge challenge.

However, athletes and coaches are happy to be back on field at the SAI centres. According to a few coaches, training sessions have gradually increased. They are increasing load bit by bit, keeping in mind the fact that using gym facilities is not permitted yet. But slowly, the athletes have started to concentrate on skill training. A coach even said by the end of next month, his ward would perform up to 90 per cent of his capacity.

According to a top AFI official, the first phase is not very intense anyway. "Training is in first phase and the load is not intense. Since competition is more than two months away, the athletes will make progress as the national competitions draw near.

"Since they were not training for over 60 days, first priority is to get them back in shape. After the first phase, load will increase and gradually they will work on their skills till they reach pre-competition level."

The AFI feels by September, athletes will reach competition level and by October they are expected to peak if everything is fine and the pandemic doesn't pour cold water on plans. The AFI anyway will not be going for any international competition until next year. "We will not compete in international events this year," said the official.

EIGHTH FOR BAYERN

Bayern Munich had secured an eighth straight title with two games to go and finished 13 points ahead of the second-placed Borussia Dortmund. Bayern were presented the trophy on Saturday, amind chants of "champions" echoing around Wolfsburg's empty stadium. They had 16 league wins from 17 games in 2020, blemished only by a 0-0 draw against Leipzig. Bayern can win a domestic double against Leverkusen in the Cup final on July 4.

CL BOUND

Behind Bayern and Dortmund, Borussia Moenchengladbach and RB Leipzig secured qualification for next season's Champions League after 2-1 wins over Hertha Berlin and Augsburg, respectively. Dortmund, who had already wrapped up second place, crashed to a 4-0 home defeat to Hoffenheim on the last day.

AFP

BREMEN STILL ALIVE

Werder Bremen gave themselves hope of avoiding relegation from by thrashing Cologne 6-1 to grab a play-off place. They face second-tier opponents in either Heidenheim or Hamburg in the play-off first leg on Thursday.

BAVARIAN CONQUEST

The curtain came down on the 2019/20 Bundesliga season on Saturday, with Bayern Munich celebrating another title. Here's a look at the highlights...

HAIL HAALAND Erling Braut Haaland's rise was one of the season's stories. Following his $22 million transfer from Red Bull Salzburg in the winter, he became the first player to score a hat-trick off the bench on his Bundesliga debut. He finished the season with 13 league goals in 15 matches. In all, he scored 16 in 18 games for Dortmund.

TOP SCORERS

34 Robert Lewandowski (Bayern)

28 Timo Werner (Leipzig)

17 Jadon Sancho (Dortmund)

MOST ASSISTS

21 Thomas Muller (Bayern)

16 Jadon Sancho (Dortmund)

13 Thorgan Hazard (Dortmund)

Arsenal enter FA Cup semis

AFP @ Sheffield

DANI Ceballos fired Arsenal into the FA Cup semifinals as the Spaniard's stoppage-time strike clinched a dramatic 2-1 win at Sheffield United on Sunday. Mikel Arteta's side rode their luck after surviving a second-half barrage from the Blades at Bramall Lane.

Nicolas Pepe put Arsenal ahead with a first-half penalty after Chris Basham fouled Alexandre Lacazette.

David McGoldrick equalised with three minutes left, but Ceballos settled the match in the final moments. Arsenal join Manchester United, who beat Norwich 2-1 in the last four. Chelsea beat Leicester 1-0 in another quarterfinal.

Arteta was Arsenal's captain when they won the FA Cup final against Hull in 2014.

And the Gunners boss currently remains on course to get his hands yet again on the silverware.

EXPRESS READ

Title-chasing Lazio overcome Fiorentina

MILAN: Lazio fought back from a goal down to beat Fiorentina 2-1 in Serie A and keep its fading title hopes alive. Luis Alberto struck seven minutes from time to cut the gap to league leaders Juventus back to four points. Ciro Immobile converted a penalty to cancel out Franck Ribery's opener for Fiorentina. Lazio's hopes of claiming a first league title since 2000 took a hit in midweek when its 21-match unbeaten run ended with a defeat at Atalanta.

KSCA to work on revised calendar

BENGALURU: The Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) will meet in the first week of July to work on a revised local calendar. Rise in Covid-19 cases and full lockdown every Sunday (from July 5) forced a rethink, after KSCA announced tentative plans to start in early July. "Besides rise in cases, Sunday is a prime day. More matches are held on Sundays," said treasurer Vinay Mruthyunjaya.

Murray withdraws from play-off tie

LONDON: Former World No 1 Andy Murray pulled out of his last match at the Battle of the Brits exhibition event on Sunday. Murray was due to face Cam Norrie in a third place play-off in Roehampton after losing in the semifinals to Dan Evans on Saturday. But after playing four matches in the previous five days in his first tournament since November, the 33-year-old decided not to push his body any further.

Bala an inspiration: Aditi

PTI @ New Delhi

INDIAN women's football team goalkeeper Aditi Chauhan feels with the growth in profile of the game in the country, more players will follow the footsteps of Bala Devi, venturing out of the country in search of a professional career. Women's football is expected to get a boost with India hosting the U-17 World Cup next year and the AFC Asian Cup in 2022.

Aditi said more girls will emulate striker Bala, who last year became the first Indian woman to join a top flight league in Europe. She plays in Scottish Premier League with Glasgow-based Rangers. "There is so much potential in India. I want more girls to get such exposures, and learn from playing against better opponents. With more avenues for younger girls coming up, I am sure there will be others who will follow in Bala's footsteps," Chauhan said.

ENGLAND AHOY

Racism should also be penalised: Holder

MANCHESTER: West Indies skipper Jason Holder has called for strict action against players found guilty of making racist comments, saying they should be penalised just like dope offenders and match-fixers. "I don't think the penalty for doping or corruption should be any different for racism," Holder told *BBC Sport*. "If we've got issues within our sport, we must deal with them equally." According to ICC rules, a player can be banned for life for on-pitch racist abuse if he breaches the anti-racism code three times. A first offence results in four to eight suspension points. Two suspension points equate to a ban for one Test or two one-day internationals or two T20Is. Holder, who is set to lead his side against hosts England in the three-Test series beginning on July 8, said anti-racism feature can be introduced where players will be briefed ahead of each series. "In addition to having anti-doping briefings and anti-corruption briefings, maybe we should have an anti-racism feature before we start a series." Many cricketers, including Darren Sammy and Chris Gayle, have opened up about racist incidents.

Pakistan's Babar Azam (R), Imad Wasim (L) and Imam-ul-Haq arrive on Sunday at Allama Iqbal International Airport, Lahore, before their departure to England. The squad left without the 10 players who had initially tested positive | AFP

Younis singles out Archer as 'major threat'

KARACHI: Pakistan batting coach Younis Khan singled out Jofra Archer as a "major threat" in his team's three Tests and T20Is (each) against England, starting in the first week of August. Younis said the 25-year-old has made a reputation for himself since qualifying to play for England and going on to play a key role in last year's Ashes and triumphant World Cup campaign. "He is a real match-winner and a threat." Younis said before the team's departure. "Archer has strong nerves which he proved while bowling a crucial super over in the World Cup final. He has bite in his bowling and his high arm action is very good and gives him nip in his bowling."

Alzarri keen to use low profile as advantage

MANCHESTER: He might be perceived as the weakest link in the West Indies pace attack, but young Alzarri Joseph believes that being relatively "unknown" entity will work to his advantage during his team's matches against England. The 23-year-old Joseph, who had generated quite the buzz during the last IPL with the tournament's best figures, has played nine Tests and is a part of the quartet led by Shannon Gabriel along with Kemar Roach and Jason Holder for company. "Obviously those three guys have a lot more experience than I do," Joseph was quoted as saying by *Cricbuzz*. "I'd think more often than not, teams would see me as the weaker link. I think my job is to come in and just back those bowlers (up) and keep the pressure on. It's not necessarily because of age, but because of the number of matches I've played compared to the other three bowlers," the young right-arm fast bowler added. But not being known has its set of advantages as well. I could use it as an advantage. I know my abilities. But once I turn up on the day and get the job done, I know I can get on top of any opponent."

Leach had Covid-like symptoms on SA tour

SOUTHAMPTON: England spinner Jack Leach says he had developed symptoms similar to those of coronavirus while in South Africa earlier this year, but having regained fitness he is now focussed on earning his place in the national team for next month's Test series. The left-arm spinner had returned home from South Africa in January after struggling to recover from sepsis (immune system's over reaction to infection). He also contracted flu before the Centurion Test. Leach, who was included in England's 30-man squad, said the symptoms that he had during his illness in South Africa were similar to the dreaded Covid-19. "I guess we'll never know. If you had those symptoms I had in South Africa now, you'd say this is definitely coronavirus. But I feel healthy and fit, and I want to stay that way as much as possible," Leach, who has suffered from Crohn's disease (inflammatory bowel disease) since the age of 14, said. "There's nothing I can do about what happened in the winter ... but I'm quite lucky my Crohn's is under control. There are people who suffer a lot worse than me. I don't feel sorry for myself."

Facebook has started rolling out Dark Mode support on mobile users and the feature is currently live with some users globally. Facebook Dark Mode interface will have greyscale design with white accents for logos and icons.

APRIL 9, 1921—FEBRUARY 11, 2005

MARRIAGE
1944
Mary married Levi Jackson, Sr, a sailor in the US Navy

CHILDREN
2
Levi Jackson, Jr and Carolyn Marie Lewis

EARLY LIFE
Born as Mary Winston, she grew up in Hampton, Virginia and graduated from an all-black George P Phenix Training School

1942 Received a bachelor's degrees in mathematics and physical science from Hampton University

BEFORE HER STINT AT NASA
She taught mathematics in Calvert County, Maryland. She also worked as a US Army secretary before her aerospace career

NASA CAREER
1951
Jackson started her NASA career in the segregated West Area Computing Unit of the agency's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia

1958
Jackson was promoted from a mathematician to become NASA's first Black female engineer

CONTRIBUTIONS
She wrote and co-authored 12 technical papers for National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) and NASA

1979
She achieved the most senior title within the engineering department

HOW JACKSON BECAME AN ENGINEER

1953
Jackson worked at the 4-foot by 4-foot Supersonic Pressure Tunnel

This 60,000 horsepower wind tunnel was **capable of** blasting models **with winds** approaching twice **the speed** of sound. Her **supervisor** eventually suggested **she** enter a training **programme** that would allow **her** to become an **engineer**

PROVIDED PLATFORM FOR OTHER WOMEN

1979 She joined Langley's Federal Women's Program, where she worked hard to address the hiring and promotion of the next generation of female mathematicians, engineers and scientists

EXFILE •

NASA's first black woman engineer

While the US reels from the ongoing protests following the death of George Floyd, a 46-year-old black man, NASA has decided to name its headquarters building in Washington, DC, after Mary W Jackson. She was the first African-American female engineer at NASA. We take a look at her journey

NASA Headquarters building in Washington, DC, will be named after Mary W Jackson, the first African American female engineer at the US space agency

1985 Mary retired from Langley

2019 Awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, posthumously

Mary W Jackson was part of a group of very important women who helped NASA succeed in getting American astronauts into space. Mary never accepted the status quo, she helped break barriers and open opportunities for African Americans and women in the field of engineering and technology

Jim Bridenstine, NASA Administrator

NO MORE HIDDEN

2016
Margot Lee Shetterly's book *Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race* told the story of the women behind NASA's West Area Computing Unit

The same year, the book was made into a movie by the name *Hidden Figures*, where Janelle Monae portrayed Jackson

HONOURS FOR THE ICONS

2019
A portion of E Street SW in front of NASA Headquarters was renamed Hidden Figures Way

HUMAN COMPUTERS
The West Area Computing Unit were the African American, female mathematicians who worked as human computers at the Langley Research Center of NACA from 1943 through 1958. These women were a subset of the hundreds of female mathematicians who began careers in aeronautical research during World War II

Boris to chart out diet plans for UK to beat Covid-19

Measures may include calorie labelling for eateries and increasing outdoor gyms

OBESITY RISK

LONDON: UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson is drawing up plans to put the country on a diet as part of a wider strategy to counter obesity, seen as a major risk factor in those impacted by coronavirus.

Johnson, 56, who is on a slimming regime himself, is expected to outline plans by next month to increase fitness levels across the board after his own hospitalisation due to the deadly virus back in April.

"All the focus and energy is going to be on getting the nation fitter because, as the coronavirus has shown us, it will save lives," a Department of Health insider with knowledge of the plans told *The Sunday Times*.

"People have gone to extraordinary lengths to remain safe, including staying at home for the past 12 weeks, so encouraging them to eat more healthily and take more exercise should not be that difficult. This is clearly our moment because if people want to do their bit to beat this virus then losing weight would be the best thing they can do," the source said.

The UK's health department has presented proposals to 10 Downing Street as part of the strategy. They include better access to programmes ranging from family exercise schemes and healthy eating to bariatric surgery, which includes the fitting of gastric bands.

Other possible measures include banning price promotions such as "buy one, get one free" offers and unlimited refills on unhealthy foods and drinks, bringing in legislation to mandate calorie labelling for restaurants, caf's and takeaways, and increasing the number of outdoor gyms.

The newspaper quoted a Downing Street aide as saying that Johnson was 'very keen' to take a more interventionist approach, despite his previous criticism of the nanny state and past opposition to the sugar tax. Several experts have highlighted the impact of unhealthy diets and obesity on greater vulnerability to Covid-19.

"The elephant in the room is that the baseline general health in many Western populations was already in a horrendous state to begin with. In the UK and US, more than 60 per cent of adults are overweight or obese," said Dr Aseem Malhotra, Professor of Evidence Based Medicine, who has been campaigning on the issue of promoting a healthy diet to combat coronavirus.

"India is particularly vulnerable, having a very high prevalence of lifestyle related diseases. Specifically, conditions such as Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease are three of the major risk factors for death from Covid-19. This is rooted in excess body fat, a cluster of conditions known as a metabolic syndrome," he said.

France's oldest nuclear plant to close

CONTAMINATION FEAR

FESSENHEIM: France's oldest nuclear power plant will shut down on Tuesday after four decades in operation, to the delight of environmental activists who have long warned of contamination risks, but stoking worry for the local economy.

The Fessenheim plant, opened in 1977 and already three years over its projected 40-year life span, became a target for anti-nuclear campaigners after the catastrophic meltdown at Fukushima in Japan in 2011. Despite a pledge by then-president Francois Hollande just months after the Fukushima disaster to close Fessenheim — on the Rhine river near France's eastern border with Germany and Switzerland — it was not until 2018 that his successor Emmanuel Macron gave the final green light.

Run by state-owned energy company EDF, one of Fessenheim's two reactors was disconnected in February.

The second is to be taken off line on early Tuesday, but it will be several months before the reactors have cooled enough for the used fuel to be removed.

That process should be completed by 2023, and the plant is not expected to be fully dismantled before 2040 at the earliest.

"We hope, above all, to be the last victims of this witch hunt against nuclear" energy, Fessenheim union representative Anne Laszlo said ahead of the closure that will see about 150 families depart the tiny Alsatian community of 2,500 inhabitants this summer..

Investigators to probe tundra pollution

TOXIC METAL

MOSCOW: Russia's main criminal investigation body has launched a probe after a report that a nickel-processing plant was pumping water contaminated with heavy metals into the Arctic tundra.

The reported pollution detailed on Sunday by the *Novaya Gazeta* newspaper was in the same region where a massive spill of diesel fuel last month entered Lake Pyasino, which feeds a branch of the Arctic Sea.

The newspaper released a video of what it said was water from a Norilsk Nickel enrichment plant gushing out of a pipe and into a river that also runs into the lake. The Investigative Committee branch for the region said it has sent investigators. Norilsk Nickel, one of Russia's biggest companies, owns the power plant from which some 21,000 tonnes of diesel fuel leaked in May.

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Kaveree Bamzai
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Vice-Chancellor, SASTRA Deemed to be University

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Local se Global

Ministry of Minority Affairs, Government of India

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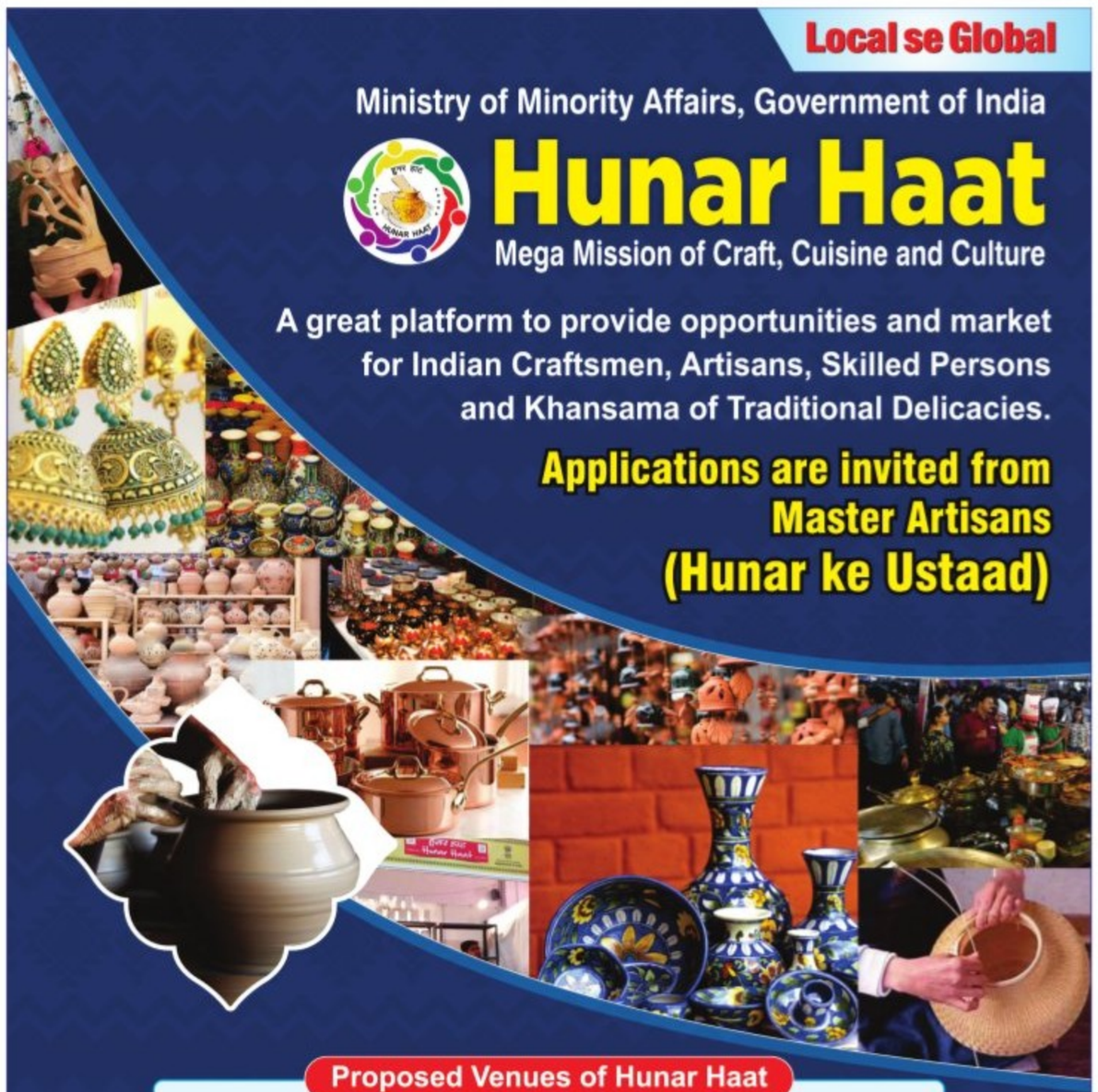

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MONDAY

DAY'S DIARY

Birth of the iPhone

The iPhone, considered one of Apple's worst-kept secrets, came to the market on this day in 2007, five months after Steve Jobs announced it

FIRST-DAY ANTICS

Hundreds of consumers were camped outside Apple and AT&T stores all day long to purchase the gadget that came with a $600 price tag, and was being released at 6 pm

ORIGINAL SUCCESS

It earned the name 'Jesus Phone' for of its amazing capabilities. By the time it was discontinued in June 2008, Apple had sold over six million units in four countries

PRICE PROBLEMS

Despite the number of fans, iPhone didn't manage to become mainstream because of its cost; in just two months, it was reduced to $400

Darshan to play a freedom frighter

PG 4

CORNERING CORONA

As fears rise about community spread of COVID-19 in the city, healthcare professionals, police and civic agency authorities appeal to Bengalureans to help contain the virus for as long as possible

EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION

• Vidya Iyengar

There's panic in the air with COVID-19 cases rising sharply by the day. The fear factor about the lurking virus during lockdown 1.0 has only enhanced during post 1.0. Authorities and health experts say it's high time each person follows safety measures with the seriousness that a pandemic calls for.

Everyone must make efforts to stay at home as much as possible, says Dr Swati Rajagopal, consultant - Infectious Disease & Travel Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital, who also suggests avoiding going out frequently for even grocery shopping. "People need to step out of homes only in case of an emergency. Soon after coming home, change clothes, wash them and take a shower," says Rajagopal.

The importance of wearing a mask properly when stepping out cannot be emphasised enough, say experts. Although discomfort is often cited as a reason for wearing one on the chin, Rajagopal insists that both the nose and mouth should be covered well. While the government is conducting drives, imposing fines on those found not wearing masks, and sealing down shops for not conforming to social distancing directions, many are still seen not following them. Police Commissioner Bhaskar Rao took to social media on Sunday to warn shops, malls, banks, hotels, offices and establishments of severe consequences if the mask rule is not adhered to. "If you do not implement mask wearing and ensure safe distance, City Police will raid and initiate legal action. This has already started, and it's in public interest (SIC)," he posted, adding that DCPs and BBMP are on streets to enforce wearing of mask and social distancing. "Warnings now, criminal cases will follow. [We] urge every Bengalurean to follow mask enforcement and social distancing. If people argue call 100, we are ready to respond to your calls. Don't bother about the high and mighty factor, whosoever it is, just tell people around you to wear mask and not hang it around their neck," Rao said.

Right now with the increase in cases, Randeep D, BBMP Special Commissioner, Solid Waste Management and In-charge of Public Health, cautions people to stay indoors, avoid any sort of social gathering and be careful. "From BBMP's end, we have started strict enforcement where we are coordinating with police to ensure people wear masks. We have a proper tracking system, right from the head office to hospitals, and even after patients are discharged to check on them," he says.

Dr Aravinda GM, consultant physician, internal medicine, says people with any sort of symptoms of mild respiratory illness should consult a doctor and avoid over-the-counter medication. "Digital consults should be used to a larger extent in order to avoid unnecessary rush. While people in general should follow the etiquette of avoiding visiting crowded places, vulnerable members like senior citizens and pregnant women should take additional precautions and avoid stepping out unless required," he says.

Immunity is key, and those with a strong immune system are capable of fighting the disease and recovering from it. "We should work on our body immunity by eating healthy and exercising regularly. Every step we take now counts for our future," says Rajagopal.

(With inputs from Iffath Fathima)

Roger Binny, President, Karnataka State Cricket Association

With the current spike in number of cases, we have to be more responsible than earlier. We must follow the protocols set in place by the government and health officials. I don't think we are following safety precautions such as wearing masks, maintaining social distancing and washing hands as strictly as required. This is the biggest problem. If we follow these measures, we will be helping the cause of defeating the virus in a big manner.

Having less movement on the road and fewer people gathering together is also going to help. Working from home is also a great idea, and at least 30-60 per cent of the people should be allowed to do this. Rest assured, we will overcome this.

Shraddha Srinath, Actor

People need to realise that the more we step out, more are the chances of contracting infections and therefore higher are the chances of this pandemic not coming to an end anytime soon. If people want things to get back to normal then they need make the small sacrifice of staying at home and stepping out only if necessary.

Also, one needs to realise that we have a responsibility towards people at home and the society. Many companies expect their employees to come to work. I feel that if it could be executed from home then you absolutely must opt for work from home. It's easy for companies to pass the order of coming to office but if one of the employees gets infected, then who is going to take their responsibility, and also what about the safety of people at their home? We need to stay home, and as of now, everything can wait.

Chanakya Vyas
Theatre personality

As we prepare to live with what is being considered as the new normal after this crisis, it is even more important that we follow the basic guidelines and protocol, whether it's wearing masks while stepping out or maintaining social distancing. This is not only for yourselves but also for the benefit of others. At the same time, people should rely on scientific data to get information and have a better understanding of facts. We should also be cautious about what we share on social media or WhatsApp because that can even trigger panic among people. These are testing times and we need to come out of this together. That's how we would be able to return to the normal soon.

CHECK LIST

- Clean and disinfect frequently-touched objects and surfaces using a regular household cleaning spray or wipe
- Avoid any kind of physical contact like handshakes or hugs, and maintain at least 3-feet distance between yourself and anyone who is coughing or sneezing
- Be careful about hygiene while using public toilets
- As soon as you come home, change your clothes, wash them, and take a shower
- If you need to visit the hospital, take a prior appointment so that you can avoid the crowd and prevent overcrowding

Chetan Kumar, Actor and activist

While people are well aware of the basic safety precautions – social distancing, usage of masks and washing hands – what's also important is to stay outdoors in terms of distancing rather than staying indoors. It's better to sit outside one's house when there is a meeting because the spread of the virus is limited given that more distance can be maintained. We also really need more testing. I read that testing has increased from 4,000 to 7,500 a day. We require more allocations in terms of beds and prevention mechanisms, and not for building statues. A long term restructuring of the entire health system in the country is required to make it more accessible to everybody and not just for the rich and the powerful.

The precautions we currently practise were also followed during the plague in Italy in the 14th century. We have to be resilient, we have to be vigilant. We will come out of it but cuurently, it's important that everybody maintains these safety precautions.

CITY READ

Bengaluru Central University organises awareness drill

With an aim to raise awareness about drug addiction, prevention and illicit trafficking, Bengaluru Central University hosted an awareness drill. The event was organised by the NSS cell of Bengaluru Central University as part of the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, which is observed on June 26. Prof S Jaffet addressed the teaching and non-teaching staff members present during the programme.

Vocal in local

• Monika Monalisa

A casual scroll on your social media feed and there's a good chance that you would get suggestions for 'teatime' videos by actors like Danish Sait and Shraddha. Like them, many independent filmmakers and content creators are coming up with their projects in Kannada, mainly owing to a rise in demand for regional content in urban areas.

Though Shraddha made her acting debut with the character of Vasu in *Pushpavalli*, which gained instant popularity, she has become a familiar name with her Kannada content on social media, with her snippety shows like *Eywhatya*, *Jenius Janaki*, etc.

"Much before Kannada content I was doing videos in Tulu and it became very popular because it brought back so many memories for people. It went the same way for Kannada content too. The advantages of doing content in a regional language is that you won't get the same punch in English. Also the content should be the sole decider of the language it should be made in," says Shraddha who is popularly known as aiyyoshraddha.

A still from Madan Kumar's webseries, *Unboxing Brahmanda*

Madan Kumar, the co-founder of the production house Paperframes, says although he has been making short Kannada videos for four years, he has seen a drastic surge in the number of viewers for his last few projects. "It all started when a large number of Kannada movies started streaming on OTT platforms and people also started having easy access to internet. This viewership also started spilling over to the other social media content that people started creating," says 28-year-old Kumar.

Though many in Bengaluru may not be well versed in Kannada, Kumar says such 'snackable content' is increasingly making people comfortable with the language, and they start to use words like da, guru, macha, etc. "Many content creators like Jordindian, Brodha V or Danish Sait started giving out small bits of Kannada in their content which has even led the non-Kannada speaking crowd to watch the longer formats," explains Kumar, adding that his last short film, Lockdown Conversations, went viral within 24 hours of it being released on their official YouTube channel.

According to Poornachandra, an actor and independent filmmaker, the catchy phrases and humorous content has also started making a huge difference in the way the audience receive the shows. "The age group of the main audience of this kind of movies is 20-35 years. They cannot relate to the way the characters speak in mainstream TV series or Kannada movies, which is more of a bookish language. But with digital content, they do," he says.

Many content creators like Jordindian, Brodha V or Danish Sait started giving out small bits of Kannada in their content which has even led the non-Kannada speaking crowd to watch the longer formats

— Madan Kumar, director

EASY-TO-MAKE POTATO STARTER

INGREDIENTS

Potatoes: 2, big
Shallots: 10
Ginger: 1
Garlic pods: 8
Lemon juice: 2 tsp
Ghee: ¼ cup
Mint leaves: 1 sprig
Coriander leaf: 1 sprig
Salt and pepper: 1 tsp each

METHOD

- Slice potatoes length wise and put them in a large pot of water. Season with salt then bring to a simmer. Boil for 10 minutes until the potatoes are just tender. Drain and allow to cool.
- Once they cool, slice onion, ginger, garlic, mint leaves and coriander leaves and mix together. The dressing needs to be a little thicker. Set aside.
- Heat a tawa on high for five minutes. Brush the potatoes with ghee and place on the tawa. Allow to cook for 5-10 minutes, turning every few minutes, until the potatoes are cooked and caramelised. Remove and place on a large platter. Pour the dressing and mix. Add lemon juice.

– by SP Vijayarajagopalan, Chennai

QUICK FIX

What's cooking IN YOUR KITCHEN DURING THIS LOCKDOWN?

We are hungry for recipes with minimum ingredients and maximum flavours. Share your quick-fix with us, along with step-by-step photos, at cityexpresschn@gmail.com.

KOLAM CORNER

PADI KOLAM

- First draw a square. Draw parallel lines inside the square on all sides. The parallel lines should always be in even numbers. Keeping this square as the base, make different patterns around the square as per your imagination.
- You can also extend the parallel lines outwards and make patterns.
- Make your kolam attractive by decorating it with kaavi.

-Thilagalakshmi Sridharan

BRIGHT SPOT

GREENS FOR COLD CLIMES

An Austrian farmer has experienced a "eureka moment" on how to grow vegetables through the winter – and he is now teaching his technique to other European gardening communities as well. Horticulturist Wolfgang Palme says he accidentally discovered his "winter farming" technique after a batch of his Asian lettuce was left undamaged by an early frost in the vegetable fields behind his house. On digging further he found that the existing scientific literature on the frost-hardiness of Central European vegetables was just wrong and he decided to make it right. The result is that the experimental farm where Palme conducts his research, now grows lettuce, spinach, scallions, red radishes, purslane, turnips, carrots, celery, herbs, and pea sprouts throughout the winter.

Source: goodnewsnetwork.org

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Available on: Android & iOS

FIT BIT

MANDUKASANA

(FROG POSE)

In Sanskrit, 'manduka' means 'frog' and 'asana' means 'pose'. This asana is an intense hip-opener. Traditionally, it is believed to open the Svadisthana (spleen or sacral) chakra, the centre of creativity, pleasure and enjoyment. Activating it promotes focus, productivity and inner acceptance.

STEPS

- Sit in Vajrasana or thunderbolt pose. It is a simple kneeling pose.
- Now, with your hands, make a fist with the thumb tucked inside your four fingers.
- Place the fists on the abdomen on both sides of your navel.
- Now exhale and start pulling the abdomen inside slightly. After this, bend forward slowly and press the navel with your fists.
- Keep your back as straight as you can, and keep looking forward in your bent position.
- Exhale completely and maintain it as long as you are comfortable.
- To release this pose, inhale and slowly raise your trunk up to the kneeling pose and bring your hands back to your sides. Relax.
- Repeat this 4-5 times.

BENEFITS

- Tones all the organs situated in the abdominal region.
- Improves pancreas and is quite beneficial for people suffering from diabetes.
- Helps in relieving constipation.
- Helps in reducing the extra fat around the belly, waist and thighs, hence helps in reducing weight.
- Improves excretory as well as digestive functions.
- Provides a good stretch to the back muscles.
- Helps in relieving the pain in the legs, knees and ankles.
- Relieves anxiety, stress and mild depression.
- Opens the hips, inner thighs, groin, chest and shoulders.
- Soothes menstrual cramps.

LIMITATIONS

- Those suffering from back pain shouldn't practise forward bending poses.
- Those with any type of knee or hip injury should also avoid this asana.
- Pregnant women shouldn't do this asana.
- Avoid it if you have had recent surgery in the chest, abdomen, legs or knees.

– by N Elumalai, PhD scholar (Yoga Science) at Meenakshi Academy of Higher Education & Research, Chennai

SOUND BOARD

ADULTING
Did you ever think being an adult would be this hard? Neither did our hosts Michelle Buteau and Jordan Carlos. The comedians talk about adulting with some of the funniest, most creative adults around.
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WTF WITH MARC MARON
Marc Maron welcomes comedians, actors, directors, writers, authors, musicians and folks from all walks of life to his home for revealing conversations. Marc's probing, comprehensive interview style allows guests to express themselves in ways listeners have never heard.
- On Google Podcasts

LITTLE WOMEN: A MODERN AUDIO DRAMA BY SHANNON CAMPE
Written by actor Shannon Campe, Little Women: A Modern Audio Drama is based on the popular novel by Louisa May Alcott. The 18-part fiction podcast features the life and adventures of the four March Sisters.
- On Spotify

POPULAR ON YOUTUBE

RAMA RAMA RE...
An escaped death row convict ends up taking a road trip with an old man on a personal mission and a young couple trying to elope.
- Cast: K Jayaram, Nataraj, Dharmanna Kadur

DHOL
Guru falls in love with Priya, who is the sister of a wealthy industrialist, Nanda. When Nanda learns about Guru, he is furious and tries to separate him from his sister.
- Cast: Yogesh, Aindrita Ray, Prakash Raj

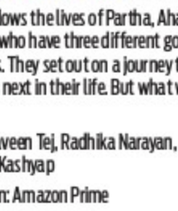
SHRAVANI SUBRAMANYA
When Shravani finds out that her boyfriend, Sudeep, is a thug, she attempts to escape from his dutches. Subramanya, a budding singer, tries to save her from Sudeep.
- Cast: Ganesh, Amulya

SOORASAMHARAM
Pandian, a police officer, sets out to take revenge on a drug lord for the murder of his best friend, Arun. However, Pandian gets abducted by the criminal and is forced into drug addiction.
- Cast: Kamal Haasan, Janagaraj, Nirosha

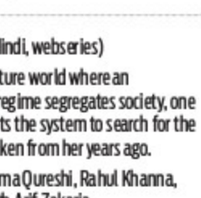
Scan this QR code to find out how your favourite celebs are coping with the lockdown.

WHAT'S ON TED TALKS

1 THE TALE OF THE DOCTOR WHO DEFIED DEATH BY ISEULT GILLESPIE
A husband and wife were in despair. The woman had just given birth to their 13th child, and their family was running out of food and money. Wandering into the woods, the father encountered a skeletal figure: this was Death himself, come to offer his services as Godfather. Iseult Gillespie tells the tale of Death and the doctor.



2 MARY'S ROOM: A PHILOSOPHICAL THOUGHT EXPERIMENT BY ELEANOR NELSEN
Imagine a neuroscientist who has only ever seen black and white things, but she is an expert in colour vision and knows everything about its physics and biology. If, one day, she sees colour, does she learn anything new? Eleanor Nelsen explains what this thought experiment can teach us about experience.



3 WHY 1.5 BILLION PEOPLE EAT WITH CHOPSTICKS BY JENNIFER 8. LEE
Author Jennifer 8. Lee explains how the chopstick spread from the East to the West, and was designed to give you the perfect bite.

4 WHY SHOULD YOU READ "THE MASTER AND MARGARITA"? BY ALEX GENDLER
The Devil has come to town. But don't worry– all he wants to do is stage a magic show. This absurd premise forms the central plot of Mikhail Bulgakov's masterpiece, "The Master and Margarita." Alex Gendler explores one of the greatest novels of the 20th century.

5 WHAT TECH COMPANIES KNOW ABOUT YOUR KIDS BY VERONICA BARASSI
The digital platforms you and your family use every day may be collecting and selling your children's data, says anthropologist Veronica Barassi. Sharing her eye-opening research, Barassi urges parents to look twice at digital terms and conditions instead of blindly accepting them, and to demand protection that ensure their kids' data doesn't skew their future.

NOW STREAMING

REGIONAL

VIDIYUM MUN (Tamil)
Rekha, a sex worker, tries to protect a 12-year-old girl named Nandhini from a life of prostitution. However, both of them soon go on the run from four dangerous men who wish to keep them down.
- Cast: Pooja Umashankar, Vinod Kishan, Malavika Manikuttan, John Vijay
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video
- Registration: ₹129 per month

EEDA
(Malayalam)
Anand and Aishwarya fall in love not knowing that their families are mortal enemies from opposing political parties. The couple try to have a life together against all odds.
- Cast: Nimisha Sajayan, Shane Nigam, Manikandan R Achari, Alancier
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹199 per month

BULBBUL (Hindi)
A child bride grows up to be an enigmatic woman presiding over her household, harboring a painful past as supernatural murders of men plague her village.
- Cast: Tripti Dimri, Avinash Tiwary, Rahul Bose
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹199 per month

K.G.F: CHAPTER 1 STORY (Kannada)
Rocky, a young man, seeks power and wealth in order to fulfil a promise to his dying mother. His quest takes him to Mumbai, where he gets involved with the notorious gold mafia.
- Cast: Yash, Srinidhi Shetty, Ananth Nag
- Watch on: Amazon prime
- Registration: ₹129 per month

CHAK DE! INDIA (Hindi)
Kabir Khan, a former hockey star, is tainted as someone who betrayed his country. However, he begins coaching the Indian women's national hockey team to prove his loyalty to the nation.
- Cast: Shahrukh Khan, Vidya Malvade, Sagarika Ghatge, Shilpa Shukla
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Registration: ₹ 129 per month

All the streaming apps can be accessed on smartphones and smart TVs with Internet connection.

MUNDINA NILDANA (Kannada)
The film follows the lives of Partha, Ahana and Meera, who have three different goals in their lives. They set out on a journey to find what is next in their life. But what will they find?
- Cast: Praveen Tej, Radhika Narayan, Ananya Kashyap
- Watch on: Amazon Prime
- Cost: ₹129 per month

LEILA (Hindi, webseries)
In a near-future world where an oppressive regime segregates society, one woman skirts the system to search for the daughter taken from her years ago.
- Cast: Huma Qureshi, Rahul Khanna, Siddharth, Arif Zakaria
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹199 per month

ENGLISH/FOREIGN

BOJACK HORSEMAN (English, web series)
A humanoid horse, BoJack Horseman – lost in a sea of self-loathing and booze – decides it's time for a comeback. Once the star of a '90s sitcom, in which he was the adoptive father of three orphaned kids (two girls and a boy). The show was the hottest thing around, then suddenly, was cancelled. Now 18 years later, BoJack wants to regain his dignity. With the aid of a human sidekick and a feline ex-girlfriend who is his agent, he sets out to make it happen. But Hollywood is vastly different from those days, and getting used to stuff like Twitter may take some time.
- Cast: Alison Brie, Will Arnett, Aaron Paul, Amy Sedaris, Paul F Tompkins
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹199 per month

CASUAL (English, web series)
A bachelor brother and his newly divorced sister are living under one roof again. Together, they coach each other through the crazy world of dating while raising her teenage daughter.
- Cast: Michaela Watkins, Tommy Dewey, Tara Lynne Barr, Nyasha Hatendi, Julie Berman
- Watch on: Amazon Prime Video
- Registration: ₹129 per month

MY NEIGHBOR TOTORO (Japanese)
Mei and Satsuki shift to a new house to be doser to their mother who is in the hospital. They soon become friends with Totoro, a giant rabbit-like creature who is a spirit.
- Cast: Noriko Hidaka, Chika Sakamoto, Sumi Shimamoto
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹199 per month

ON BODY AND SOUL (Hungarian: Testről és lélekről)
When a man and woman who meet at work begin to know each other, they discover that they have the same dreams at night, and they decide to make them come true.
- Cast: Alexandra Borbély, Réka Tenki, Géza Morcsányi, Ervin Nagy
- Watch on: Netflix
- Registration: ₹199 per month

Bundle of talent

Actor-director Pawan Kumar recently posted an Instagram story that showed a drawing made by his daughter, Laasya Pasowna. The artwork is a 'portrait' of her mother, Sowmya Jaganmurthy, on which the little one has scribbled, "She is a ghost." And you thought only daddy posts funny content on social media.

For the record

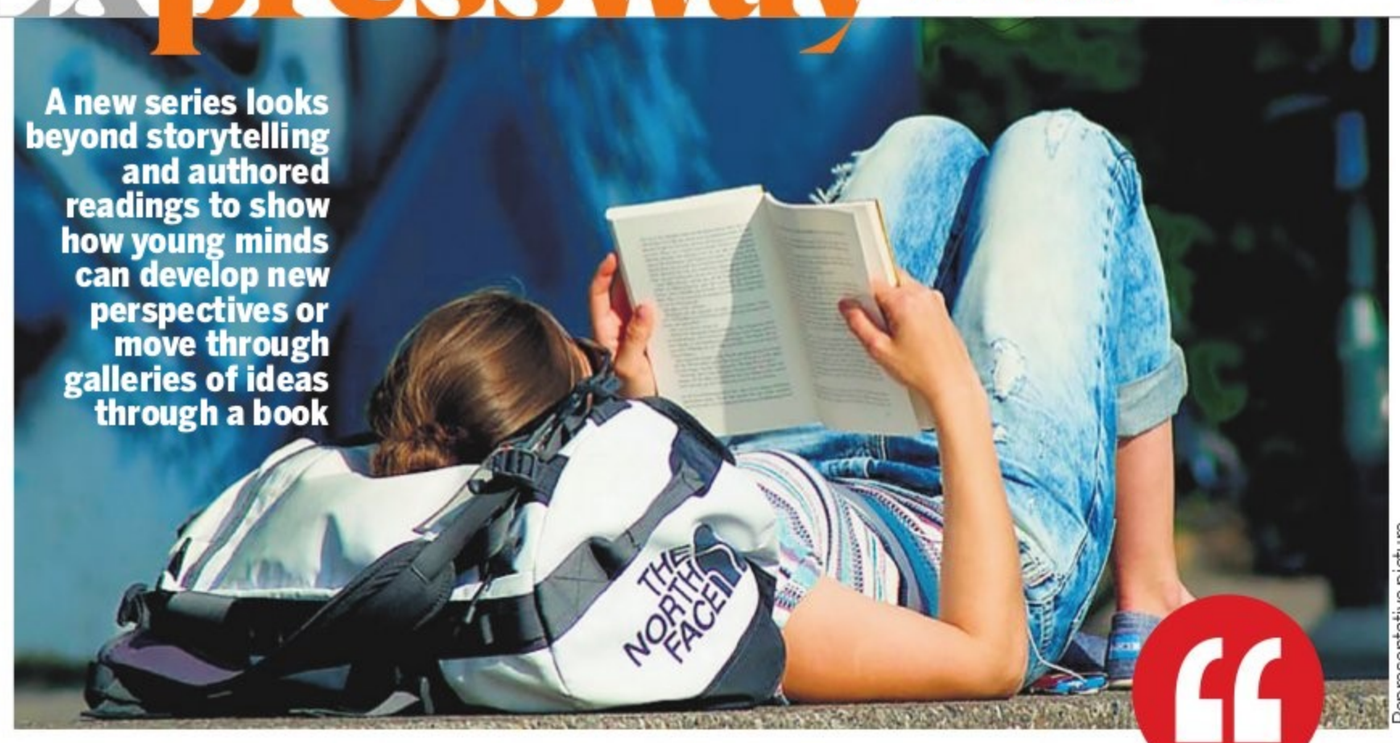
• Express Features

Ask Rahul Murali Krishnan (23) to subtract 100-digit numbers and he takes less than one minute -- 54.89 seconds to be precise. Krishnan, who is pursuing a post-graduate diploma in risk management from Global Risk Management Institute in the city, was recently recognised by Spain-based Official World Record Organization for 'Fastest 100 Digits Subtraction Ever'.

Krishnan was introduced to abacus at the age of 8. "So I never really had a problem in solving math problems," he says. Krishnan also learnt techniques and shortcuts that helped in solving math problems.

The idea of registering for a record came when he watched a show about a world record event. "I was excited to see people achieving something unique in different fields. I wanted the same for myself," he says. "I started with 30 digits, and kept pushing myself. Finally, I decided to target 100 digits. The next problems were speed and accuracy." Initially, it took him over three minutes to solve a 70-digit problem. "But with practice, I was able to increase my speed and accuracy," he says.

A new series looks beyond storytelling and authored readings to show how young minds can develop new perspectives or move through galleries of ideas through a book



Representative picture

BETWEEN THE LINES

• Simran Ahuja

What if a book isn't just an artefact, story or a way to learn new vocabulary? What if it could actually show you how to gain a fresh perspective? Flow India, an education and culture organisation, aims to answer these questions through its new 'Museum in a Book' series. While visiting a city's cultural centre may not be advisable in light of the social distancing norms due to the pandemic, you can still move in and out of a gallery of ideas through the organisation's series, which is designed for children aged 11-14 years.

The series kicked off in June and is different from other book-related events, which mostly tend to revolve around storytelling or a reading by an author. "We wanted to reimagine cultural experiences and look at art, and particularly books, in new light in these times," explains Arundhati Mitter, director of the Delhi and Bengaluru-based organisation. Two episodes of the series have already been conducted on Zoom so far, and two more are in the pipeline. Each, however, features an interesting collaboration with a bookstore.

The first episode – with Bengaluru-based Champaca – featured the book *Botanicum*, an illustrated book on the plant collection at London's Kew Gardens. Since the idea was to help children imbibe "large cognitive thinking through a non-fiction book", the 60-minute session involved structured activities that would help participants achieve just this. "We made the kids look in their immediate surroundings for objects that came from plants, consider ways in which plants make living more habitable, and also had them reflect on the imprint they are leaving behind on the planet," says Shailza Rai, lead learning experience designer. She adds, "This way, a book becomes more than just something that gives you information or helps improve your language and writing. It shows you how to look at reading as a cultural experience."

Agrees Kavita Singh Kale, a city-based parent whose daughter took part in the event. "Usual events have just storytelling but here there were more interactive elements and a session of knowledge-sharing among the participants," she says.

Similarly, the second episode, with Lightroom Bookstore, featured the book, *Escape from Mr Lemoncello's Library*. Activities for this one focused on quizzes, scenario-based questions and acting challenges. And no, reading the book beforehand is not a pre-requisite. "One might just find themselves wanting to pick the book up after the event," says Rai.

The third episode, slated to take place in the coming fortnight, features a collaboration with Leaping Windows in Mumbai. Ask Rai about details and she remains tight-lipped. "All I can say is that it's going to include a comic book and the idea of language being more than just words," she says.

We wanted to reimagine cultural experiences and look at art, and particularly books, in new light in these times

—Arundhati Mitter, director, Flow India

During the session on Botanicum, we had kids look in their surroundings for objects coming from plants, and reflect on the imprint they are leaving behind on the planet

—Shailza Rai, lead learning experience designer

CITY READ

Hospital sets up inflammatory disorders clinic

Rainbow Children's Hospital (RCH) recently inaugurated a Paediatric Inflammatory Disorders Clinic at its Marathalli facility. During the inauguration, RCH's vice-president, Neeraj Lal said, "Though inflammatory disorders are not uncommon but due to non-specific symptoms there is usually a delay in diagnosis."

Face shields donated to BMTC staff

BMTC drivers and conductors were given visors by the team of Mrs India-Karnataka. Pratibha Saunshimath, director of the organisation, said, "With BMTC bus services resuming operations, the staff has been tirelessly working to ensure Bengaluru keeps moving. Hence, we thought of this initiative."

Barbecues, burgers and bonhomie

• Express Features

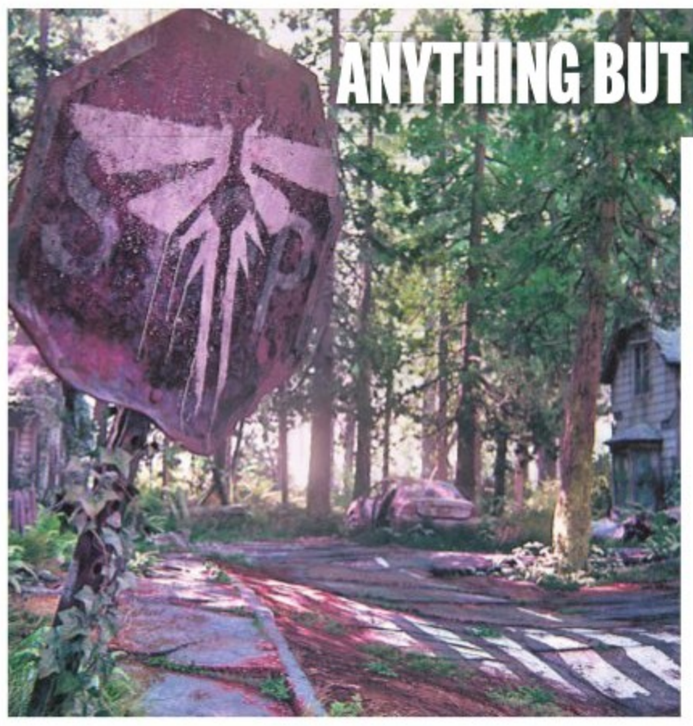
The American Independence Day is typically known to be a day filled with fireworks, outdoor picnics and get-togethers. But while the ongoing pandemic has played a dampener on celebrations, city hotels and eateries are attempting to recreate the experience in Bengaluru by going all out with stars, stripes and scrumptious dishes to commemorate the occasion. Take, for instance, Four Seasons Hotel Bengaluru. Executive sous chef **Dirham Haque** says, "While people are slowly starting to venture out to dine, we thought it would be a nice thing to put together a menu inspired by well-loved American classics during the 4th of July weekend." Kicking off the celebrations early, the hotel has a special menu with burgers, mac 'n' cheese and a New York style cheesecake, on offer from July 2 to 4, served at their Lobby Lounge from 11am to 9pm. "With our garden and pool views, this could be a relaxing way to enjoy the long weekend of 4th of July," adds Haque.

At Marriott Hotel Whitefield, Western cuisine chef Rohit Joshi has come up with a five-course menu available for dine-in on July 4 or as a delivery of a 'brunch in a box' on July 4 and 5. Priced at ₹2,499 plus taxes for delivery and ₹1,750 plus taxes per person for dine-in, it includes American classics like gourmet burgers, meat grills, hot dog and corn dogs, smores and cheesecake.

Windsor Food Factory – a cloud kitchen of Windsor Pub – is offering a barbecue menu with chicken, prawn, fish and paneer in various marinates. "Barbecues are a big part of the celebration and they happen all over America on July 4th," says managing director Rohan Beliappa, while discussing the idea behind the grills.

And since no feast is complete without some sweet, Smoor Chocolates is also planning to ring in the occasion with its cupcakes. Known to be a staple at their outlets, the baked treats will come with a special addition. "Each of the cupcakes, be it red velvet, oreo, strawberry, vanilla or chocolate, will also have a fondant American flag on them," says chief marketing officer Kanchan Achpal. These will be available at their outlets at 1 MG Mall, Indiranagar and Koramangala.

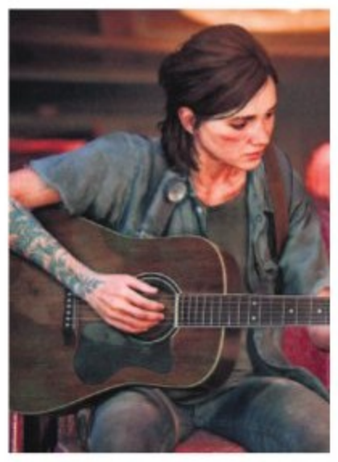
ANYTHING BUT PREDICTABLE



ARE YOU GAME? Anusha Ganapathi

The Last of Us 2 is the long-awaited sequel of a PlayStation exclusive. The first game was a zombie apocalypse game that was released seven years back. Nothing new, dystopia is the genre of 90 per cent of video games that exist. But it had an emotional journey – that turned heads. Game 2 was released just last week, and I sat through the entire end credits after bingeing the game, just to appreciate the amount of effort that has gone into it. I have a lot to say about how far representation of female characters in mainstream video games has evolved. I have a lot to say about building out the wider universe within a linear story. I have a lot to say about redundant phrasing in sentences for dramatic effect (I hate it), in the context that the gameplay is anything but predictable and repetitive.

Ellie and Abby share their separate tales of internal conflict, which they channelise into brute strength to rain hell on walkers, runners, stalkers, and shamblers (they call it anything but zombies), and also enemy clans. The gameplay is perhaps just a minor upgrade to Uncharted 4 – but Uncharted itself was revolutionary at its time, and it would be hard to top it. We play as both Ellie and Abby – and it is not just their characters, but also their close combat strategies and weapons which vary a great deal. This makes the game exciting; As if it needed more than just the jump scares. The dark and horrific encounters were interspersed with the cut scenes - as a reward for all that cardio. Surprisingly, the cinematics aren't like the ones that we normally skip – the gameplay is so tightly connected to the story, that even random flashbacks serve as a tutorial moment for some puzzle later in the game. The are so many clues and tiny stories of other characters hidden in the environment that you understand better how life is in the apocalyptic reality of TLOU.



The sign of a good game is that when you're playing it, you are forever dreading the sad moment when it ends. TLOU2 did multiple encores. There were points where I thought – ok, this is where the game ends. But it turns out that I had just reached a halfway point. And the next time, I was completely sure – as sure as the moment when a speaker on the stage takes a really long pause, and everyone starts applauding. But the game, like the speaker, surprises you by ploughing on with more content, until you finally feel like you've had enough of it. I rate the game with an A for gore and violence, but a 10/10 for story.

WEB OF WORRIES

Caught in the net

• Vidya Iyengar

As a paediatrician and adolescent specialist, Dr Anuradha HS has been suddenly noticing children as young as seven and 11 complaining of stress and anxiety. "On one hand, there's a lot of talk about death, and, on the other, there's paranoia. All of this is affecting children and adolescents. There are children who are gaming non-stop and wake up around noon. I am very concerned about what is happening," she says.

Out of concern, the senior doctor decided that the need of the hour was to connect with parents to raise these issues which have got heightened during the lockdown. Every Sunday, Anuradha does a two-hour interactive session on Demio where she picks up questions from parents and educators, conducts polls to understand issues and engage with them. "What is worrying is cyber-bullying and addiction. The pandemic hit us like a bolt from the blue and no one was prepared for these kinds of fall-outs," she says, adding, "From statistics, we find that one in 10 kids is a victim of cyber-bullying, however, this number is grossly under reported. Instagram is a hub for this, with youngsters owning multiple and fake accounts," she points out.

While pre-corona times included restrictions on screen time, that is not a realistic possibility now with classes and activities going digital. "Another issue is that today's children and teens are tech savvy but parents and educators are unable to keep pace. The issues cropping up are hard to reverse and parents need to nip them or take help early on," she adds.

While interactions having gone online comes with its pluses, the flip side to it is the paranoia, worry and accompanying dangers.

"Earlier, there was some amount of balance especially since there were outdoor activities which acted like buffers. However, with no face-to-face interaction or socialisation now, things are getting out of hand. Schedules have gone out of sync, there's sleep disturbance, and headaches and migraine are becoming a routine part of a youngster's life," she says, giving an instance of a young girl who would wash her hands over 25 times a day even though she was staying indoors and drink only warm water for fear of contracting the virus.

Today's children are tech savvy but parents and educators are unable to keep pace. The issues cropping up are hard to reverse —Dr Anuradha HS, paediatrician

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SINDHURA LAKSHMANA IN THE MAKING?

Darshan

Tharun Kishore Sudhir

Umapathy S

Buzz has it that actor Darshan, director Tharun Kishore Sudhir, and producer Umapathy are coming together for a historical drama; the current focus is on *Roberrt* release say the director and producer, who are tight-lipped about the project

A Sharadhaa

There are reports that Darshan, director Tharun Kishore Sudhir and producer Umapathy Srinivas Gowda will be teaming up for a historical drama, *Sindhura Lakshmana*. The speculations arose after the producer registered the title under his Umapathy Films banner.

The buzz is that *Sindhura Lakshmana* would be the trio's second project together after the upcoming *Roberrt*. It is also learned that the actor, director, and producer have been discussing making a film on the popular rebel hero and freedom fighter from Karnataka and his struggle against the British.

However, when the director and producer were contacted, they did not wish to divulge any kind details and stressed that their current focus is only on the release of *Roberrt*. "Yes, the title *Sindhura Lakshmana* has been registered under our home banner, but apart from this, there is nothing I would like say about this project," says producer Umapathy.

Since Darshan is known to have a penchant for historical and mythological dramas, and has often mentioned that it is a delight to work in such projects, it is unsurprising that his name is doing the rounds for portraying the titular character Veera Sindhura Lakshmana. If confirmed, this will join the list of his other historical and mythological dramas like *Krantiveera Sangolli Rayana, Kurukshetra*, and the upcoming *Raja Veera Madakari Nayaka*.

Raja Veera Madakari Nayaka, also a project about a popular rebel hero and freedom fighter, is being made under Rockline Productions and will be directed by Rajendra Singh Babu.

Talking about a possible collaboration with Darshan again, director Tharun says, "I am ready to wield the megaphone for Darshan sir at any time. Whether it is a historical drama or any other project, there is no second thought about it. But right now, we are concentrating only on *Roberrt*."

The makers of *Roberrt* are looking for a right release date for the film.

Meanwhile, Darshan is working with *Milana* director Prakash Jayaram for a film and the actor has also given his nod for a project with *Yajamana* producer Shylaja Nag.

With the coronavirus pandemic making things uncertain in the film industry, there is no clarity yet about when shootings will resume and when new projects will go on floors. As for the *Roberrt* trio coming together for Sindhura Lakshmana, we will have to wait for the production house to make an official announcement.

Prajwal Devaraj will not be part of Guru Deshpande's *Thackeray*

The film, which is an adaptation of the popular play Macbeth by Shakespeare has been revived and will see a new face; Ravichandran to play Macbeth senior

CE Features

Three years after its muhurath, director-producer Guru Deshpande's *Thackeray* is all set to go on floors this year. The ambitious project, an adaptation of the popular play Macbeth by Shakespeare, will be made with a change in the star cast. *Thackeray* initially starred Prajwal Devaraj, but he will be replaced by another actor. According to Guru Deshpande, the film had to be postponed as the actors and producers and director himself were committed to other projects. "The Thackery story, which I have been working on over the last three years, has been revived, and I have improvised a lot in the script. After going through the final draft, the producers and I felt that it required another hero, and we are looking for a new face," says Guru Deshpande, whose film will have Crazy Star Ravichandran portraying the pivotal role of Macbeth senior. The *Paddehulli* director had previously colloborated with Prajwal Devaraj for *Gentleman*, as producer, which was directed by Jadesh Kumar.

While the team is yet to officially announce the production details and are in search of a male lead, curiosity has developed about who will portray the character in the modern version of the play. "The project is back. It is one of my most ambitious films, and we will soon reveal the lead hero and star cast," says the director, adding, "In all likelihood, and depending on the pandemic situation, we plan to go on floors by mid-September."

Ravichandran

Guru Deshpande

Prajwal Devaraj

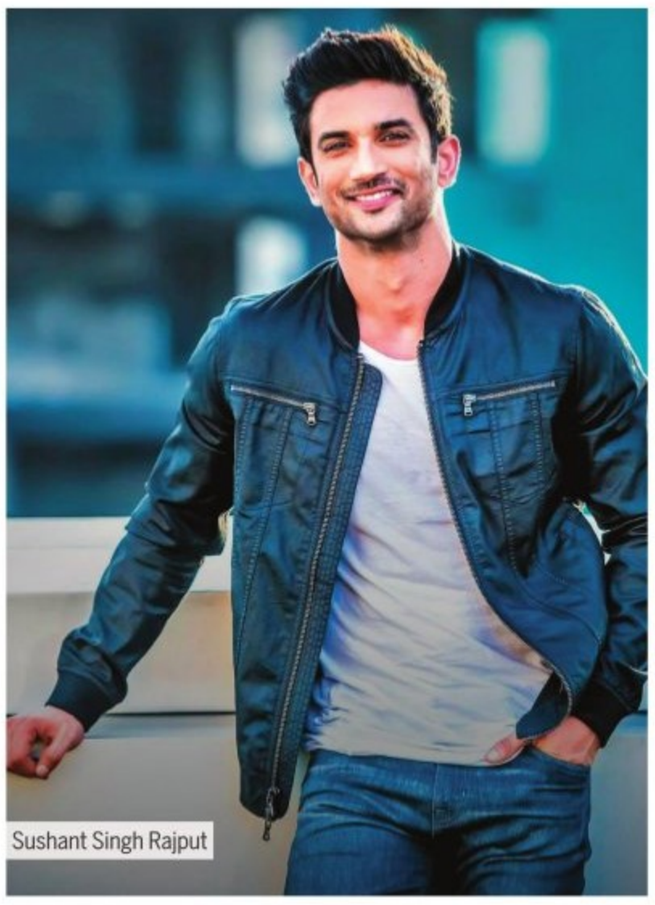
Lawrence Osbourne to pen the script for *River of Time* adaptation

CE Features

British novelist Lawrence Osbourne will be penning the script for the film adaptation of Jon Swain's memoir River of Time. The rights for the book have been optioned by Indochina Productions for Osborne to script and executive produce. Described as the quintessential memoir of the Vietnam War era, River of Time was published in 1997 and centres mostly on events in Cambodia and Saigon between 1970 and 1975.

Swain, an award-winning correspondent for the Sunday Times of London and AFP, famously arrived in Pnomh Penh on the last flight out of Bangkok before the Khmer Rouge took power in Cambodia. He witnessed the Cambodian genocide and became a key figure among the war correspondents based in the city.

The film will be produced by Indochina Productions with Nicholas Simon serving as the executive producer.


Sushant Singh Rajput

Sushant Singh Rajput's family sets up foundation to support young talent

CE Features

Actor Sushant Singh Rajput's family has decided to set up the Sushant Singh Rajput Foundation (SSRF) to support young talents in areas of cinema, science and sports.

In a statement, Sushant's family said, "The world's Sushant Singh Rajput was simply Gulshan to us. was free-spirited, talkative and incredibly bright. He was curious about just everything. He dreamed without restraints, and chased those dreams with the heart of a lion. He smiled generously. He was the pride and inspiration of the family. His telescope was his most prized possession, through which he fondly gazed at the stars."

The family said that the foundation will honour Sushant's memory and legacy. Additionally, the actor's childhood home in Rajiv Nagar, Patna will be turned into a memorial. "We will put his personal memorabilia and belongings there, that include thousands of books, his telescope, flight-simulator etc, for his fans and admirers," Sushant's family said, adding that they will maintain his Instagram, Twitter and Facebook pages as legacy accounts to keep his memories alive.

Sushant died by suicide at his Mumbai home on June 14. He was 34. His final film, Dil Bechara, is releasing on Disney+ Hotstar on July 24.

SHREK 2 DIRECTOR KELLY LOSES LONG BATTLE TO CANCER

CE Features

Kelly Asbury, best known for directing Academy Award-nominated animation films Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron (2002) and Shrek 2 (2004), passed away at 40. The director died on Friday morning in Los Angeles following a long battle with abdominal cancer, reports variety.com.

Kelly, who started his career at Walt Disney Feature Animation in 1983, directed five animated feature films during his career including Spirit: Stallion of the Cimarron, Shrek 2 (which he co-directed with Conrad Vernon), Gnomeo & Juliet, and Smurfs: The Lost Village. His final directorial effort was 2019's Ugly Dolls, for which he got stars like Kelly Clarkson, Nick Jonas, Janelle MonAie, and Blake Shelton on board.

His other work includes credits on aceThe Little Mermaid, Tim Burton's The Nightmare Before Christmas, James and the Giant Peach, The Prince of Egypt, Chicken Run, Wreck-It Ralph, Frozena and Sherlock Gnomes.

The Texas native was also credited as a writer in the 1991 film Beauty and the Beast and worked as a story artist on Toy Story in 1995 and both Kung Fu Panda and Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa in 2008.

Inside Out writer Ronnie del Carmen, who worked with Kelly on the Prince of Egypt, paid tribute to the animator on Facebook.

He wrote: "So sorry to hear this today. Everyone loved Kelly, it's impossible to not be charmed by him or feed off of his positive energy. We worked together on 'Prince of Egypt' and when I joined Pixar stories of the great Kell-god was already legend. I will miss him dearly. Rest In Peace dear friend (sic)."

A still from the film

Disney postpones *Mulan* for the third time

CE Features

Right after Warner Bros. decided to postpone the release of Christopher Nolan's Tenet to August 12, Disney has announced that it's upcoming film *Mulan* is getting delayed by weeks. The film was supposed to release on July 24 but it is now expected to hit the screens on August 21.

"While the pandemic has changed our release plans for *Mulan* and we will continue to be flexible as conditions require, it has not changed our belief in the power of this film and its message of hope and perseverance," said Disney's co-chairman and chief creative officer Alan Horn and co-chairman Alan Bergman to Variety.

According to the website, it is said that Disney doesn't want *Mulan* to be the first biggest release amidst the pandemic and become a test subject to predict the market.

Directed by Niki Caro and stars Liu Yifei, Mulan is made on a budget of about $200 million. The film was first planned to be released on March 27.

The Boys second season to release in September

Superhero satire The Boys will be returning with its highly-anticipated second season on September 4.

The first three episodes of The Boys season two will come out on September 4. New episodes will be available each Friday culminating the season finale on October 9.

The announcement was released during a The Boys F**kin' Reunited streaming virtual event, which included the entire cast and executive producer Eric Kripke revealing the opening moments of season two.

— IANS